

GREAT BRITAIN

DRAWER 13

FOREIGN COUNTRIES

- NORFOLK

- SWANTON MORLEY CHURCH

71.2009.085 05228



Abraham Lincoln and Foreign Countries

Great Britain

Swanton Morley Church,
Norfolk

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



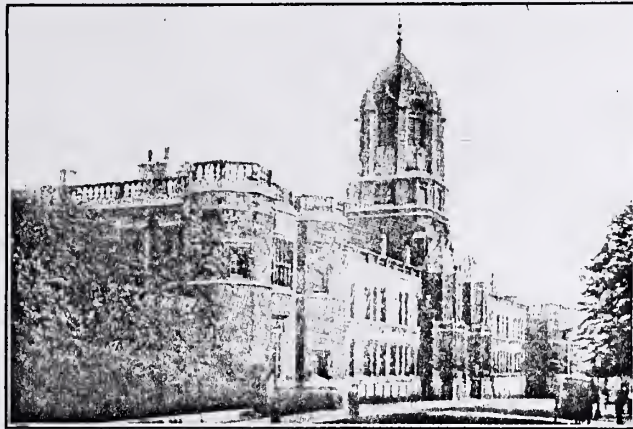
HOLIDAY GUIDE TO NORTH EAST ENGLAND

including the Yorkshire Coast—York and the North, East Dales and Moors—Four Yorkshire Dales (Nidderdale, Swaledale, Wensleydale, Wharfedale) Northumberland—Durham—Tynedale and the Roman Wall—Teesdale and the Eden Valley—The Lakes (Westmorland, etc.)

Nº 3

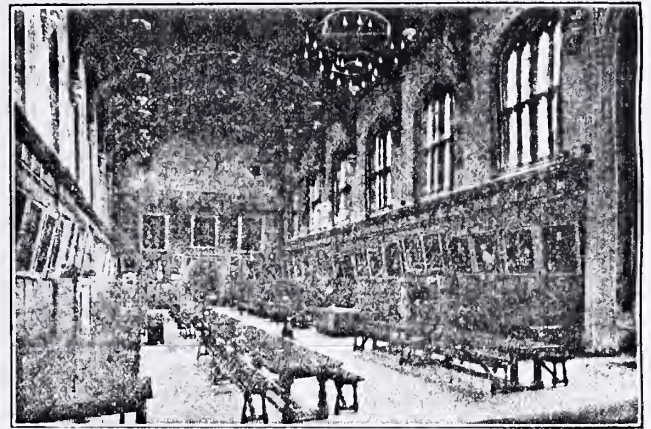
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14cm x 21cm, 124 pgs, 1937

UNIVERSITY



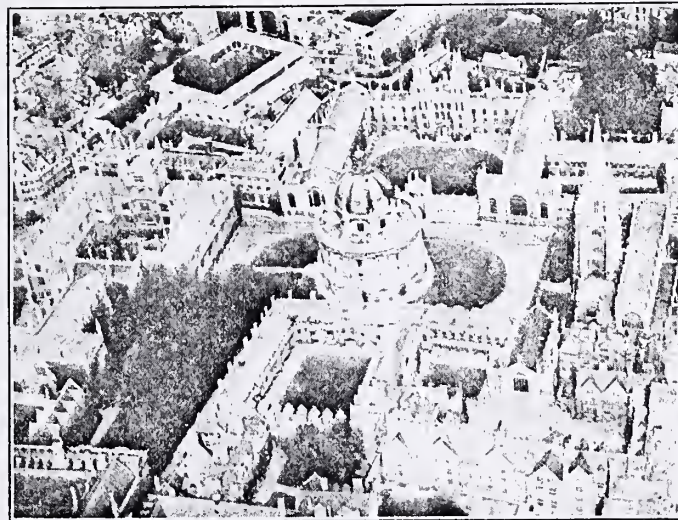
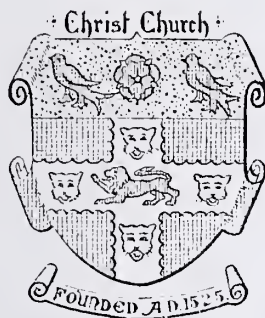
CHRIST CHURCH COLLEGE, OXFORD

WHICH NUMBERS AMONG ITS GRADUATES JOHN AND CHARLES WESLEY



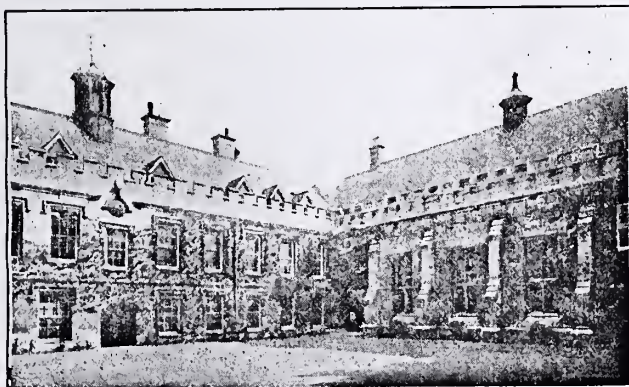
DINING HALL, CHRIST CHURCH COLLEGE

AS IT APPEARS TODAY



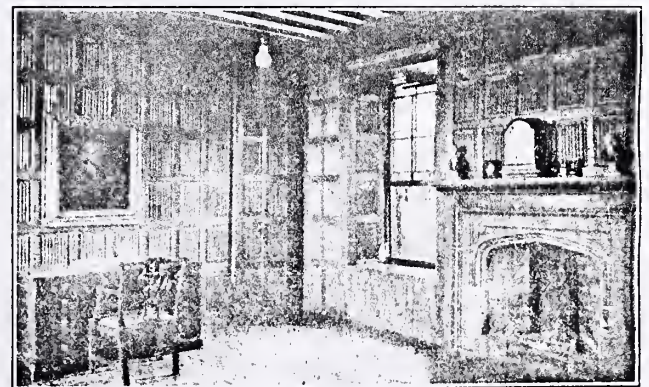
THE SPIRES OF OXFORD

A MODERN VIEW



THE FIRST QUAD, LINCOLN COLLEGE, OXFORD

JOHN WESLEY WAS A FELLOW OF LINCOLN



WESLEY'S ROOM AT LINCOLN, AS RESTORED IN 1928

THE "HOLY CLUB" MET IN THIS ROOM

THE NATIONAL TRUST
for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty

Chairman of Executive Committee:
THE MOST HON. THE MARQUESS OF ZETLAND, K.G.
Honorary Treasurer: CECIL LUBBOCK, ESQ.



Secretary: D. M. MATHESON.
7 BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDENS, S.W.1
Telephone: SLOane 72082 5808

In reply please quote No. DM/MR/1376

10th September 1943

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL.

The Director,
The Lincoln Historical Research Foundation,
Fort Wayne,
Indiana. U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

A Colonel Leslie of Norfolk has for some years been investigating the history of the Lincoln Family and has collaborated in his research with the Government Records Office in Norwich. He has collected very interesting documentary evidence carrying back Abraham Lincoln's ancestry to the middle of the 16th, and possibly the early part of the 15th century. By consulting old maps he has also identified the site of the house where the family lived for some time at Swanton Morley. It was from this house that Samuel Lincoln emigrated.

The National Trust is a Society incorporated by Act of Parliament but supported solely by subscriptions of members and donations from the general public. It occupies now a quasi-public position as the only body so incorporated in this country for the permanent preservation of places of historic interest and also of open spaces such as in America might be held as National or State Parks.

Colonel Leslie has presented the property, and it has been accepted by the National Trust, because we feel that although it cannot be said to have real historical importance, it has a very real significance to the common man as the home from which Abraham Lincoln sprang.

To the man in the street here, though he may know little of the events in which your President played so notable a part, Abraham Lincoln stands out as a great figure in world history who enunciated in unforgettable terms a doctrine of Government which is now again at stake and for which we are fighting side by side.

The Pilgrim Trust are willing to make a contribution towards the erection on this site of a suitable memorial building in which we should

hope to exhibit a number of things connected with the Lincoln family, some of which have already been offered on loan. We should also hope to have perhaps a model of the old house - it was really a large thatched cottage - of which we have drawings done by men who had a hand in its demolition some time ago.

I have consulted our Ministry of Information and the O.W.I. at the American Embassy here, and it was they who gave me your address. We are all anxious that American opinion should be consulted from the very beginning as to the most appropriate form of memorial building to be erected on the site when circumstances permit after the war. I venture to hope myself that America will contribute towards making the building a really worthy memorial, not only by collaborating in the design but possibly by some grant towards the cost and perhaps by the loan or gift of some objects for exhibition in the Museum, and in its future management.

We hope that you will treat this matter in confidence and that you will be able to let us know very shortly whether you approve of our plan and would be willing to collaborate in the scheme and in the formation of an Advisory Committee for carrying it out.

It has been suggested by the Embassy and by our Ministry of Information that as soon as we hear from you a suitable announcement should be made to the press in a form to be agreed between the Embassy, our Ministry of Information and ourselves. An exhibition might also be organised of documents and other objects connected with the site, with the Lincoln family, and perhaps with other great figures in American history. We believe that Mr. Winston Churchill and Mr. Winant would be willing to apeak at an opening ceremony at which the Deeds of the property would also be formally handed over and the plans for the future of the property announced.

Obviously the exhibition would take some time to organise but we are anxious that if possible it should be opened on Thanksgiving Day. The posts are so uncertain now that I am not sure if an exhibition could in fact be organised in time, and we might have to have the ceremony of the exhibition later.

In normal circumstances I should have suggested immediate personal contact with yourselves about this whole scheme but the difficulties of travel presumably put this out of the question today. I hope, however, that I may have the pleasure of making contact with some representative of your organisation in due course.

Yours faithfully,

N. N. Nalves
Secretary.

October 15, 1943

Mr. D. M. Matheson, Sec.
The National Trust
7 Buckingham Palace Gardens, S.W.1
London, England

My dear Sir:

We are pleased, indeed, to learn that at last, after years of effort, the ancestral line of Abraham Lincoln has been traced definitely to a family at Swanton Morley, and we commend the National Trust for believing the homelife of the Lincoln family residing there to be worthy of memorializing.

It is to be regretted that our Foundation does not have available in its budget funds for the promotion of just such enterprises as you describes in your letter of September 10.

The Foundation is primarily interested in historical research relating to the life and works of Abraham Lincoln. Pursuing this objective, we have gathered in our library over 6,000 volumes eligible for listing in a Lincoln bibliography, or items exclusively Lincoln.

It seems to me that the project that you have undertaken is worthy of calling to the attention of the Foundation's Advisory Group which consists of the outstanding Lincoln students in America. If you would care to have us learn their reaction to your suggestions, with your permission we will advise them of the tentative plans.

My own personal reaction to the effort is favorable, indeed, and our organization would be pleased to make a presentation of photostatic records in our files which relate to the English branch of the family.

Inasmuch as Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the first, annual national Thanksgiving Day, observed yearly since 1863 as a national institution, it would appear that the Thanksgiving season, 1943, would be an appropriate time for opening the exhibition which you contemplate.

Attached with this letter you will please find a list of universities having a special interest in Abraham Lincoln.

Very truly yours,

LAW:MS

DIRECTOR

9
THE NATIONAL TRUST
for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty

Chairman of Executive Committee:
THE MOST HON. THE MARQUESS OF ZETLAND, K.G.
Honorary Treasurer: CECIL LUBBOCK, ESQ.



Secretary: D. M. MATHESON.
7 BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDENS, S.W.1.
Telephone: SLOane 7208-2 5808

In reply please quote No.

DMH/MR/1376

29th September 1943

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

The Director,
The Lincoln Historical Research Foundation,
Fort Wayne,
Indiana. U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

Lincoln Memorial, Swanton Morley.

Since I wrote to you about 10 days ago I have had an opportunity of discussing this matter with Mr. Jacob Beam of the American Embassy here and with a number of other friends and Mr. Winant himself has expressed his warm interest in the proposal.

It has now been suggested that the best thing would be for us to make an announcement about the acquisition of the property as soon as we have heard from you and for a small exhibition to be organised at a Museum in London to be opened on February 12th instead of on Thanksgiving Day as ~~it~~ had been the idea when I wrote to you. This would give time for a really good collection to be assembled including, we hope, many things associated with Abraham Lincoln and his family. Lord Leicester has kindly offered any part of his Benjamin Franklin collection and I have no doubt that with suitable publicity we could arrange for the loan of other objects and papers of interest.

I need hardly say how greatly we should welcome any collaboration you could offer us in connection with such an exhibition.

The American Embassy have very kindly offered to expedite this letter for us and I hope it will reach you before you have replied to our earlier letter.

Yours faithfully,

D. M. Matheson
Secretary.

November 5, 1943

Mr. D. M. Matheson
The National Trust
7 Buckingham Palace Gardens, S.W.1
London, England

My dear Mr. Matheson:

Your letter regarding the Lincoln Memorial at Swanton Morley supplementing an earlier writing is before me and I am happy indeed to learn of your revised plan.

To have an opening of the Museum on February 12 of the ensuing year seems much more practical and we will be pleased to do what little we can to contribute to the success of such an occasion.

Would it not be a fine idea to gather all available Lincoln books with English imprints. This it seems to me would make a very definite contribution to the special library effort which is gaining momentum here in America.

We have here in our Foundation Library at Fort Wayne 6,100 separate volumes on Abraham Lincoln and we would be pleased to start preparing an English imprint bibliography if the suggestion appeals to you.

My other letter had gone forth before this more recent note arrived, but this reply quickly follows.

Very truly yours,

LAW:WM

Director

THE NATIONAL TRUST
for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty

President.

Chairman of Executive Committee:
THE MOST HON. THE MARQUESS OF ZETLAND, G.C.S.I.
Honorary Treasurer: CECIL LUBBOCK, ESQ.



Secretary: D. M. MATHESON.

7 BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDENS, S.W.1.

Telephone: SLOane 74083 ~~74083~~ 5808

In reply please quote No.

DMM/MR/1376

18th November 1943

The Director,
The Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana. U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

Lincoln Memorial.

I was very glad to have your letter of the 15th October which arrived today. I am so glad that you feel we are doing the right thing now that the ancestral line has now been quite definitely traced to Swanton Morley and this particular site.

As soon as we have made a public announcement, which we hope to do shortly, we should be most grateful if you could, as you so kindly suggest, call the attention of your Advisory Group to what we are trying to do, and ~~that~~ ^{that we} rather hope that it may be possible to raise funds for the erection of a small Lincoln Memorial on the site in which we could collect a few things or replicas connected with your great President.

Such photostatic copies as you refer to would, I am sure, be of great value, provided they could be housed in what will no doubt be quite a small building.

I am consulting the Embassy of the United States of America about the time for the Exhibition but am afraid we are already too close to Thanksgiving Day to make it possible under war conditions to collect an exhibition in time. I am suggesting to them that the announcement instead should be made on Thanksgiving Day.

Yours very truly,

Secretary.

THE NATIONAL TRUST
for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty

Chairman of Executive Committee:
THE MOST HON. THE MARQUESS OF ZETLAND, K.G.
Honorary Treasurer: CECIL LUBBOCK, ESQ.



Secretary D. M. MATHESON.
7 BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDENS, S.W.1
Telephone: SLOane 5808.

In reply please quote No. DMM/MR/1376

20th November 1943

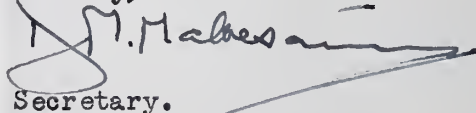
The Director,
The Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana, U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to my letter of the 18th, we have now heard from Mr. Beam of the American Embassy that there seems to be no time to get out an announcement for Thanksgiving Day. He asks therefore that the whole matter should be treated as confidential until Lincoln's birthday on February 12th when he suggests that the announcement should be made.

You will be able best to judge whether it would be necessary on this account to refrain till then from communicating, as you so very kindly suggested, with your Advisory Group. I imagine it might be quite possible to communicate the information to them in confidence.

Yours faithfully,


Secretary.

THE NATIONAL TRUST
for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty

President:

Chairman of Executive Committee:
THE MOST HON. THE MARQUESS OF ZETLAND, G.C.S.I.
Honorary Treasurer: CECIL LUBBOCK, ESQ.



Secretary: D. M. NATHESON.

7 BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDENS, S.W.1.

Telephone: SLOane ~~2208~~ 5808

In reply please quote No. DMM/JM/1376.

29th December, 1943.

The Director,
The Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne,
Indiana.

Dear Mr. Warren,

We are most grateful for your letter of November 5th.

Before this letter reaches you I hope that an announcement may have been made about the Lincoln Memorial. We are hopeful that a ceremony of handing over the site will take place in London on February 12th, and that a Member of our Government, and, we hope, your Ambassador, will be able to speak on that occasion.

I am sorry if I did not make it clear in earlier correspondence that there is no memorial building in existence. What we hope is that with the collaboration of American bodies or individuals interested in the commemoration of your great President we may be able to collect funds in this country and America and erect such a Memorial building on the modest lines necessitated by the site as soon as it is practicable to build anything.

I am sure you will appreciate that in the present circumstances, when this country is so largely a fortress and base for active operations, it would be difficult - quite apart from risks of bombing - to construct anything suitable.

Owing to the importance of the proposition we understand that Government backing would be available for the building to be put in hand at an early date after hostilities with Germany are over as soon as funds are collected and the design is settled.

Yours very truly,

Secretary.

January 24, 1944

Mr. D. M. Matheson, Secretary
7 Buckingham Palace Gardens, S.W. 1
London, England

My dear Mr. Matheson:

Thank you for your further information with respect to the Lincoln Memorial project. Just as soon as something more definite is available with respect to your memorial effort we will be pleased to publicize such information as you may wish to have made public through our medium Lincoln Lore which reaches most of the outstanding students of America interested in Abraham Lincoln.

Very truly yours,

LAW:WM

Director

2-12-44

Lincoln Memorial Planned by British

LONDON, Feb. 11 (A.P.)—Title deeds to the site of the home of Samuel Lincoln, great-great-great-great-grandfather of Abraham Lincoln, near Swanton Morley, Norfolk, will be turned over to the British national trust for preservation as a Lincoln memorial at a special ceremony tomorrow marking Lincoln's birthday.

The owner of the site, Col. John Leslie, D.S.O., will present the deeds at a ceremony in the U. S. embassy. After the war it is planned to erect a memorial on the site to house an exhibit of Lincoln relics.

2-11-44 11:30/44

BRITAIN TO MAKE MEMORIAL OF LINCOLN ANCESTRAL HOME

LONDON, Feb. 12 (AP).—Lincoln would have been the first to recognize the "debt so many owed to so few" when Britain stood alone against the Germans in the summer of 1940, United States Ambassador John G. Winant said today at an embassy ceremony in which the deed to the homesite of the Emancipator's ancestor, Richard Lincoln, was turned over to the National Trust.

"In many parts of Britain you have built monuments to honor Lincoln's memory," he said. "Today you have gone back to his beginnings to honor and perpetuate his ancestral home. Your plan in collaboration with American friends to raise funds to establish a Lincoln memorial on this property is equally appreciated."

Lincoln's ancestral home is in Swinton Morely. Samuel Lincoln, great-great-great-great-grandfather of the President, left England for America in 1637.

2-13-44

LINCOLN HOME IN ENGLAND MADE NATIONAL SHRINE

LONDON, Feb. 12 (AP). — Lincoln would have been the first to recognize the "debt so many owed to so few" when Britain stood alone against the Germans in 1940, U. S. Ambassador John G. Winant said today at an embassy ceremony in which the deed to the homesite of the emancipator's ancestor, Richard Lincoln, was turned over to the national trust.

"In many parts of Britain you have built monuments to honor Lincoln's memory," he said. "Today you have gone back to his beginnings to honor and perpetuate his ancestral home."

"Your plan in collaboration with American friends to raise funds to establish a Lincoln memorial on this property is equally appreciated."

Ernest Jones 2/12/44

61... -

The Swanton Lodge,
Tyldesley Park,
East Dereham,
Norfolk,
England.
February 14th 1944.

Dear Sir,

My esteemed correspondent, Eugene F. McPike, Esq, of San Diego, California, has very kindly given me your name and address.

I have been interested in the genealogy of the Lincoln family for some months as they had important associations with the parish of Swanton Morley. I have spent considerable time investigating their Norfolk ancestry and would be very interested indeed if you could please let me know the titles of any books except Lorton "The Lineage of Lincoln"; Isaac Hutchinson; and Tarbell "In the footsteps of the Lincolns" which deal with their early history. If there happens to be a bibliography of Lincolniana, could you please let me know where I might obtain a copy and at what price?

On February 12th, I had the honour of being present at the American Embassy, London, when the title deeds of the Swanton Morley site were handed to the National Trust in the presence of the American Ambassador. It was an interesting ceremony and an exceedingly happy culmination to a lot of research work.

Could I also trouble you for the addresses of the Lincoln Society in America as I should like to get my records as complete as possible.

I would ask you to please accept my very best thanks in advance for any information which you may be able to give me.

Yours very truly,

Francis W. Steer.

Francis W. Steer.

Dr. Rufus Rockwell Wilson,
Pinevera Press,
610, West Church Street,
ELMIRA,
New York State, U.S.A.

October 18, 1944

Mr. Francis W. Steer
The Swanton Lodge
Bylaugh Park,
East Dereham
Norfolk, England

My dear Mr. Steer:

Dr. Rufus Rokkwell Wilson has indicated that you might be interested in a copy of my Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood which I take pleasure in sending under separate cover with my compliments.

Along with it I am forwarding two copies of a bulletin called the Lincoln Kinsman which deals with the maternal ancestry of Abraham Lincoln.

If you are able to find any English records which positively identify the Samuel Lincoln, who came to America in 1637, we would be pleased indeed to learn of their contents.

It seems to me we are very much in need of straightening out the cousinship relations so-called, among the early Lincolns arriving in America, and it will probably have to be done from the English records.

We are placing your name on our mailing list to receive a publication we issue here called Lincoln Lore, which may be of some interest to you in your English researches on the Lincoln family.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1944

Calif
THE FRESNO BEE
^

The site of the ancient English home of Samuel Lincoln, ancestor of Abraham Lincoln, is to be preserved as a Lincoln Memorial in Britain. Title deeds to the property were handed to the British National Trust with appropriate ceremonies on Lincoln's Birthday. Samuel Lincoln was Abe Lincoln's great great great great grandfather. He emigrated to what is now the United States in 1637. The site, near Swanton Morley, Norfolk County, has been the object of pilgrimage for many American troops in Britain.

9

28th. October. 1944.

% Uplift Press,
78 North End,
Croydon, Surrey.

D^r Louis A. Warren,
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear D^r Warren,

I thank you for your kind letter and for the copy of The Lincoln Kinsman giving particulars of The Lincolns of England.

My mother (nee Jane Lincoln) is still alive, aged 80 and I am anxious before she dies to get investigations under way to see if there is any link between her family and that of the great American President.

It appears, however, that you might be able to help me further. I am not in a position at the moment either to undertake or to finance the undertaking of the necessary research and, therefore, want to find out the best and most economical way of setting about the task.

Can you tell me if there are any authorities over this side who are already conversant with the details of the Lincoln ancestry. It would appear that anyone with some knowledge of this matter would be able to help considerably in providing some starting point or guidance and so save time, trouble and expense.

Both my parents and myself have suffered badly by the ravages of the flying bomb. My parents' home in Clapham has been damaged three times

the last time seriously. My mother was staying with relatives in East Anglia at the time of the third blitz, but the old couple are still trying to live in the damaged house. I am rather concerned about them now the winter is coming on.

My own house in Carshalton, Surrey, was damaged twice, the second time a bomb fell within twenty-four yards and the house was rendered uninhabitable and the furniture damaged badly. We were sleeping in a Morrison shelter inside the house at the time and was thus saved from personal injury. The couple in the house opposite were blown to pieces, with all their house and furniture. The desolation caused through that one bomb would have to be seen to be believed.

The office where I carry on my business was damaged a month earlier (in July) and I have been carrying on without windows and doors ever since. They will be dangerous if some protection from the wet and cold is not provided now.

I am sure you will be interested in these details, as providing a reason that I cannot go very far at the moment in the matter of the necessary research.

After the war I hope to visit your country particularly to stimulate interest in my books. I have a certain following in America and Canada and have had three books published by American firms

The American Tract Society of New York published "The Incomparable Book" among prize entries in 1940. This book features a photograph of myself. Its price is a dollar and a half.

Fleming Revell of New York published my first novel The Man Who Could Not Smi. and The Moody Press, Chicago have just published my second novel Dawn.

Most of my best books issued in this country have now become unobtainable owing to the paper shortage. I gained a wide reputation in the religious world in the 1930's by the publication of a series of books under the pseudonym "A London Journalist".

By the way, if you can provide me with further literature on Abraham Lincoln, I should be grateful. Send books post please, as difficulties arise over parcels.

Thanking you again for your interest -

Yours, Sir,

yours very truly,

Newman Watts

December 15, 1944

Mr. Newman Watts
c/o Uplift Press
78 North End,
Croydon, Surrey, England

Dear Mr. Watts:

I regret the rather long delay in answering your letter but inasmuch as there is quite a stir just now in England with reference to memorializing the place where the Lincolns originated I thought possibly something might be received that would give you an English contact that would be more helpful than our facilities here could provide. My suggestion is that you get in touch with Mr. D. M. Mathesen, Secretary, The National Trust in London. I think he can put you in touch with someone who is now doing some genealogical work on the England Lincolns.

We will be very happy indeed to send you our publication "Lincoln Lore" and trust you will enjoy reading it.

I might give you one other name - Mr. Francis W. Steer whose address is The Swanton Lodge, Dylough Park, East Dereham, Norfolk, England.

I understand he is also doing some biographical work on the Lincoln family.

Very truly yours,

LAW:WM

Director

SWANTON MORLEY CHURCH

NORFOLK

14th CENTURY

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
THE CONNECTION OF THE
CHURCH WITH THE ANCESTORS
OF
ABRAHAM LINCOLN



PRICE 2/6



For the Library of the Lincoln National
Life Foundation.

SWANTON MORLEY
CHURCH

from: Francis W. Steer.

July 1945.

FOREWORD

I am glad to respond to the request of the Rector that a Foreword should be written to his Handbook on Swanton Morley Church. Norfolk is rich in ecclesiastical architecture, not only in Cathedral and Monastic houses, but in parish churches. A great many of them, from superficial exterior examination, appear to date from the fifteenth century. Further examination, however, often reveals that inside there are traces of an earlier date and sometimes nearly all the building may have been erected in the fourteenth century. Swanton Morley is one of these. The Decorated Period, properly so called, dates from about 1280 to 1370 but the third and fourth quarters of the fourteenth century are particularly interesting as showing the approach of the Perpendicular style. A fine example of this is in the Clere storey of the Cathedral Church erected after the fall of the spire in 1362. Swanton Morley, however, is a more complete example of this date and a most valuable example of the transition. The mouldings, always the best test of date, are a mixture of the fashion prevalent in the Decorated and Perpendicular periods.

It is a great satisfaction to me and every Antiquary that this fine church is so well looked after, and it was a splendid idea of the Rector's to write a proper account which will be very valuable to visitors who are studying the building.

L. H. G. C. C.
Dean of Norwich

SWANTON MORLEY CHURCH

ITS HISTORY AND
INTEREST AS AN
EXAMPLE OF A FINE
14th CENTURY CHURCH

*With special reference to the connection of the
Church with the Ancestors of Abraham Lincoln*

by

REV. R. N. USHER, M.A.

Rector of Swanton Morley

WITH A FOREWORD
BY
THE DEAN OF NORWICH

NORWICH:
The Soman-Wherry Press Limited
1945

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The writer wishes to thank Major Evans Lombe for allowing him access to the Manorial map of 1692, and for permission to use the tracing from that map. Also to Mr. Hornor for introducing him to the map and for every possible help freely and continuously given.

To Mr. F. W. Steer for permission to print his plan of the Church and for the use of his architectural notes on the Church, and indeed of all he has written about the Church and village.

To E. C. Keith, Esq. for getting the book ready for the press, and for much kindness shewn the writer in every possible way.

And to personnel on the R.A.F. camp at Swanton Morley for providing the photographs reproduced in this book.





SWANTON MORLEY. CHURCH.

From an old Print of 1823

Swanton Morley Church.

CHAPTER ONE—INTRODUCTORY

This is a handbook to Swanton Morley Church and not a history of the village. It is certain that there was another Church in existence before the present one, probably it was a Saxon Church and existed on the present site. A map in connection with Domesday Book marks a Church as existing on this site, and in the Domesday Book the Churchyard is rated at two pence. Foundations of an older Church were actually discovered while putting in the present heating apparatus.

The present Church was built somewhere between the years 1360 and 1440—indeed 1360 to 1390 are the more probable dates, only Martin, an architect who travelled round Norfolk Churches, states in his Diary of 1731 that the Church was consecrated in the year 1440, and as he is correct in most of his other information, it is possible that he is correct in this respect.

To say that the Church was built during the reigns of Edward III, Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V and part of the reign of Henry VI would be true, but perhaps would not convey very much to some people.

The outstanding events of these reigns are the Black Death in 1349, which nearly halved the population of England; the rise of the woollen trade and possibly the weaving trade, and the rise of Lollardism in 1381 with its almost revolutionary doctrines.

The Black Death is important because of its consequences; it halved the population and therefore labour became scarce. Two things resulted from this. There was a change over from the growing of corn to the keeping of sheep. Sheep require less labour than the growing of corn and the saving of labour became desirable, even if it was not necessitated by the Black Death. And since Edward III encouraged the development of the wool trade this was entirely satisfactory. But the Black Death did more than alter the nature of our farming—it altered

Swanton Morley Church

the status of the labourer in spite of repeated Statutes of Parliament to prevent this. Before the Black Death the labourer was a serf, tied to the soil and to the lord for whom he worked and quite unable to free himself. After the Black Death labour became a scarce commodity and was eagerly sought after. As a result of such conditions the serf gradually became a labourer working for a wage—able to choose where he worked and for whom he worked. So the Black Death of 1349 and the Peasants' Revolt of 1381 are two landmarks of the time during which this Church was built.

To these facts must be added Lollardism, the precursor of the Reformation. Indeed, Lollardism was even more modern than the Reformation itself—it mixed up Protestantism and Socialism and even Pacifism together. The leader was John Wyclif, Rector of Lutterworth in Leicestershire, and its pamphleteer was John Ball. Every effort was made both by the Church and the Government to stamp it out and Lollards were burnt as heretics. However, it flourished and much of its teaching is still not out of date.

Swanton Morley Church, then, was built at a time when men's minds were developing and daring to think, when new wealth was coming into the country because of the wool trade and possibly because of weaving. To these two factors we must add the pride of craftsmanship. The existence of six Guilds in the parish bears witness to craftsmen in the village, and no doubt the Church was built by these men.

If we are right in our surmise that there was a Saxon Church in the village before the present one, it looks as if the Saxon building had been pulled down to make way for the present building, which fact alone is suggestive. A safe and economical age would have repaired the Saxon Church and that might well have been considered sufficient, but an adventurous age that believed in its own self might feel that it could build a better and more splendid Church, as indeed it could. "The Temple that shall be built unto the Lord must be exceeding magnifical," and some such thought seems to have filled the minds of those who pulled down the old Saxon Church and built a new and

Swanton Morley Church

greater one with all the developments in architecture that had been learnt in the intervening four or five hundred years. This may give a part of the answer to the question that is so often asked: why so large a Church for so small a place? Then again, at any rate at a later date than the period when the Church was built, Church attendance was practically compulsory. In the year 1662 there were 250 communicants on Easter Day—the Church would not be absurdly big for such a congregation.

It is quite impossible to say how far the Church was built and paid for by the Lords of the Manor and how far it was built and paid for by the village. Sir William de Morley, by his will dated 1379, left 10 marks and a gilt cup to the building of Swanton Morley Church "jam incepto," "now begun." There are signs that building on a more generous scale was contemplated; for instance, a vaulted roof to the porch seems to have been planned and not carried out, possibly for lack of funds. Moreover, as the tower is reached, the building becomes poorer and poorer, as if funds were failing. This seems to suggest that the stimulus to build a Church and the provision of the necessary finance came from the Lords of the Manor rather than the villagers. The Lords of the period may have found themselves impoverished as a result of Henry V's wars in France. On the other hand, with the consequence of the Black Death receding into the distance, and the growth and development of the wool trade, the lot of the farmers and the villagers must have improved during this period. Was there rivalry, then, between the Lords of Manors as to whose Church should be the finest? This may have been so, and this may be part of the explanation why Swanton Morley Church is so large.

Another suggestion, confirmation of which would be welcomed, is that in Norfolk the west end of the Churches was used for the storing of wool. Stone buildings were almost non-existent in villages except for the Church, and the west end may have been regarded as ideal for the storing of wool. Certainly the big space at the west end of this Church would provide an ample storage space for wool, and we shall remind ourselves that the Church and Industry were closely connected together. The existence of six Guilds in this Church with their altars bears

Swanton Morley Church

witness to this fact. The fifteenth century is the time when no part of life was regarded as secular and there would be nothing incongruous in storing wool in the west end of a Church ; but this may have been an additional reason that will explain the size of the Churches.

The usual explanation given for such a large Church is that men built to the glory of God rather than to the size of the congregation. No doubt men did, but it is questionable whether mere size would be regarded as "to the glory of God." Art would most certainly be, and the mediæval Churches were filled with art. Moreover, in spite of their idealism—or possibly because of it—the Mediæval Ages were intensely practical, and it is not likely that they would have built a large Church simply because they imagined it would please God ; it is not likely that they would have thought that it would please God.

So our Church is big—perhaps because the congregation was much larger then—perhaps because there was rivalry between the Lords of Manors—perhaps because the Church was an integral part of the wool trade and was used for storing wool. It was beautiful because men built to the glory of God and they knew and felt the value of worship.

CHAPTER TWO—MAINLY ARCHITECTURAL

The Chancel was probably built last of all and is much less ornate than the rest of the Church. It looks as if insufficient funds were obtainable, possibly, as suggested previously, due to the wars of Henry V in France, and the disastrous campaigns of Henry VI.

The main features of interest are the roof and the vault under the altar. The carvings on the roof on the north side, from east to west, are :—

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Disfigured. | 4. A Dog licking his back. |
| 2. A Hedgehog. | 5. A Bull. |
| 3. A Swan and a Tun. | 6. A Goat sejant regardant. |
| 7. Conventional design. | |

South side, east to west :—

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mutilated. | 4. A Stag. |
| 2. A Dog with a bone. | 5. An Antelope. |
| 3. A Swan and a Tun. | 6. A crowned Lion sejant. |
| 7. Conventional design. | |

The vault under the altar was at one time used as a vestry and entry to it was reached through the door in the north wall of the Chancel and down some steps. These must have been done away with when the vestry was built in 1879. It is probable that the North Aisle and Nave were built first and may have been begun before the Black Death in 1349. There are indications that more skilled craftsmen were employed in its erection than in the South Aisle ; skilled craftsmen were not so plentiful after the Black Death.

The Church is interesting because it marks the transition from the decorated to the perpendicular style. The windows in the North Aisle are mainly of the decorated style with just the beginnings of the perpendicular. In the South Aisle the perpendicular type has supervened. If the Church was begun between 1340 and 1345, the Black Death held up work for some years, and by the time it was resumed again, the perpendicular style had come in.

Swanton Morley Church

The stones and style of the building, then, tell us that the Church may have been begun by the year 1345, but the South Aisle was not completed until about 1390, and the Chancel must have been built after that date.

It is only possible to draw attention to one or two items that compel us to some such conclusions. On the outside wall of the North Aisle a noticeable feature is the single course of flat tiles about eighteen inches above the sill string-course; between these two dividing courses the flint work is finely laid in roughly-squared courses, while above the tiling it is flint rubble. This shows a change of masons employed on the building and denotes that, probably as a result of the Black Death, work was stopped and later resumed by less skilled craftsmen.

Notice, too, the windows in the North and South Aisle at the east end—they are not the same. In the North Aisle the window has grotesquely carved head-stops; these are absent in the window of the South Aisle. The south window must therefore be dated later.

It may interest some to know that the height of the tower is 95 feet 4 inches. Once upon a time the tower had pinnacles and we can presume that these brought the height up to 100 feet.

There are five bells, with the following inscriptions on them :

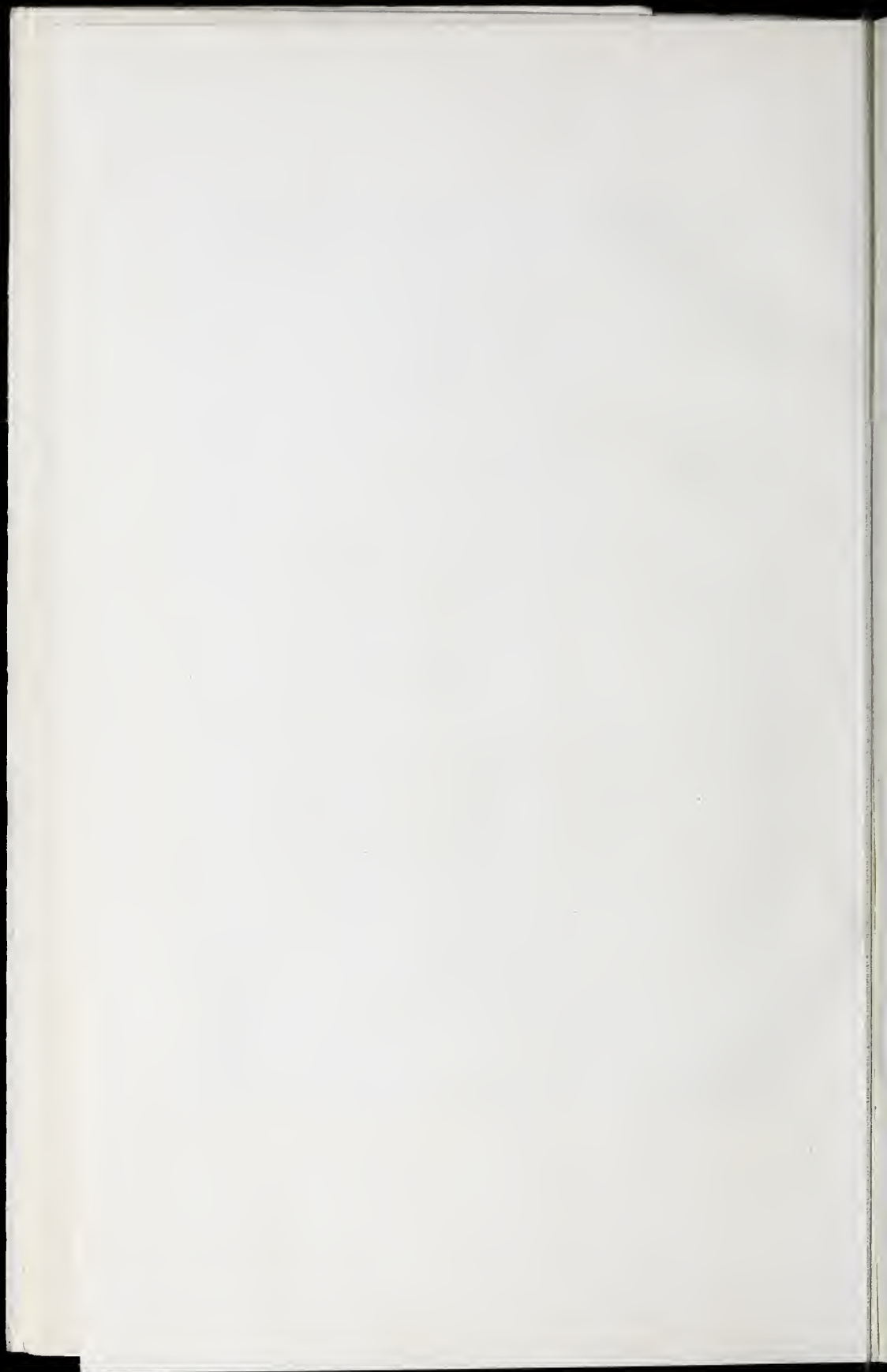
No. 1. Tho. Newman made mee 1730 Peter Rix and William Ingledow CW.

Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, John Draper made me 1623.

There is a space for a sixth bell—any campanologist will tell you that they can ring a true peal with six bells, but with only five bells you can ring 120 changes, and these do not constitute a peal. If any friend of Swanton Morley Church is interested in bells, a sixth bell would be a very happy gift. Strange to say it is often easier to obtain six ringers than five, as a peal of six bells is worth ringing, whereas a peal of five has not the same attraction.



SWANTON MORLEY CHURCH
The new Altar and window



CHAPTER THREE—RETROSPECTIVE

It might be wise to try and visualise what the Church would have looked like when it was first built. This does not mean that in any Restoration we shall slavishly imitate the old. The wise "householder bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old." But the old may have something to tell us too. When the Church was built there must have been a great deal more colour. There would have been no pews and you would have seen the great pillars rising from the floor like trees, the base of the pillar suggesting roots far into the ground and then converging into the tree; for this reason the base of a pillar is wider than the pillar itself. There may have been some benches round the wall for the aged and the infirm—the origin of the phrase that "the weakest go to the wall." There was stained glass in the windows and some of this existed at least until the year 1731. There was also a carved screen between the Chancel and the Nave which was in all probability brightly coloured as well as carved. Above the screen would be the Crucifixion with the Mother of Jesus and the Beloved Disciple on either side at the foot of the Cross.

In mediæval days the Cross was not on the Altar but above the Rood Screen. On the Altar, where the Cross now is, would be the Alms Dish—to symbolise that Christians should seek "that most excellent gift of Charity." Perhaps, too, the mediævalist being practical as well as idealistic, put the Alms Dish there to remind Christians that religion was not real unless it reached a man's pocket.

The font, too, must have had a cover; you can see, in the stonework at the top of the font, where the locks have been, and the holes made by the locks have been filled in. These locks must have been there to fasten a font cover on to the font. We shall probably be right if we imagine a cover about five feet high, richly carved and brightly coloured.

Swanton Morley Church

Reference has been made previously to the Guilds in the Church with their Altars—six of them altogether. The dedication of these Altars was as follows :—The Blessed Virgin Mary, S. Thomas, S. Ann, John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit, and All Saints. The High Altar at the east end of the Chancel would be dedicated to All Saints, and doubtless the Altar under the east window of the South Aisle would be dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary—forming a Lady Chapel. Recent excavation has also shown that there was an Altar under the east window of the North Aisle. It is difficult to say what crafts and industries were represented in these Guilds, but John the Baptist was the patron Saint of choristers, of cutlers and carpenters, and of bird-catchers, this last perhaps because he himself was shut up in prison for so long.

S. Ann was the patroness of needlewomen, lacemakers, old-clothes-women and housekeepers.

S. Thomas was the patron Saint of architects, builders and all workers in stone.

We now have some idea of what the Church must have been like when it was first built. The walls may have been nearly white, and except for the ten Commandments by the Chancel steps, there is no evidence of any mural paintings, but coloured light would be streaming through the stained glass windows, the pillars, as it were, growing up from the floor, the eye drawn to the figure of the Crucified above the carved and coloured Rood-screen ; a splash of colour above the font, and six Altars with their varied hangings, and you can visualise how colourful must have been the impression which the Church gave ; perhaps, too, how many loved to worship and to honour God with the best they had.

How has it come about that there is but the empty shell of a lovely Church left ? Was it Puritanism and its fear of the beautiful ? Or was it sheer neglect and the village ceasing to be interested in the worship of God ? The Church, in all its original beauty, must have arisen out of a living and vital religion ; the proposed Restoration must not merely be a putting back of the old—it must express a living Faith.

CHAPTER FOUR—HISTORICAL

The following details regarding the Reformation, which began during the reign of Henry VIII (1509—1547) will be of interest in so far as they directly affected Swanton Morley Church. Reformation was inevitable and England had been working up for it ever since the time of the Lollards. It was inevitable because, in the course of ages, many abuses in religion had sprung up and these needed correcting. The aim of the reformers is stated quite plainly in the preface in the Prayer Book. There was no intention of breaking with the Catholic Church, but of reforming it, and the reformers aimed at simplicity in the service such as could be understood of the people. They aimed, too, at reverting to more primitive Christianity—Bible Christianity if you like—unspoilt by mediæval accretions. These aims were sound and good, and during the reign of Henry VIII more good than harm was done by the Reformation.

When Henry VIII died he was succeeded by the boy-king, Edward VI (1547—1553) and during his minority, Government was by Privy Council with Somerset as Lord Protector. It was this Council that despoiled the Churches. The motive of the Reformation as carried out by the Privy Council was religious and was supplied by some of the more extreme of the Continental Reformers, but it was carried out by men who aimed not at religion, but simply at enriching themselves. Somerset, for instance, at one time determined to pull down Westminster Abbey because he wanted the stones with which to build himself a palace! He was only prevented from doing so by the Dean and Chapter, who offered him twenty manors instead!

In July, 1547, the Council ordered a general visitation of all the parishes in England and suspended the powers of the Bishops while this lasted. The object of the visitation was to enforce the Injunctions with which the visitors were provided and included, amongst other things, the destruction of all feigned miracles on walls or in windows. To quote H. O. Wakeman in his *Introduction to the History of the Church of England*, "It was in virtue of these Injunctions that the crusade of fanatacism against Christian art began which continued during the whole

Swanton Morley Church

of the reign of Edward VI and did not rest until it had reduced the magnificent parish Churches of England—the chosen home of an art which, in its richness, its grace and its modesty, was unsurpassed even in Italy itself—to the level of Calvinistic meeting houses, and filled them with the cold glare of clear glass and whitewash. Nothing probably has done so much to destroy the sense of colour once so exquisite in England as this wanton destruction of the painted windows and frescoed walls of our Churches.”

In 1552 an inventory of the goods belonging to Norfolk Churches was made with the object of carrying out these Injunctions. At Swanton Morley the list was drawn up by Thomas Morley, the Rector at that time, John Davey and Richard Small, Churchwardens, and John Sooleye, inhabitant. The list is interesting as showing the richness of the worship that must have belonged to the Church.

Imprimis one chaleys of syllver all gylte weyng xvj ownces at iiij^s viij^d the ownce.....(worth iiij^{li} iiij^s) (? Should this be £3 14s 8. d.)

It'm a pyx of sylver at iiij^s iiij^d the ownce weyng viij ownces.
(worth xxvj^s viij^d)

It'm a shippe of sylver whight weyng xij ownces at iiij^s iiij^d the ownce..... (worth xl^s)

It'm a vestment of blewe damaske iiij^s
j of redde sylke xx^d
one of sylke xx^d
one of whyght saten of brydges (Bruges)
xij^d
one of russet sylke viij^d (worth in all viij^s)

It'm viij coopes wherof
one of blewe damaske iiij^s
one of redde sylke ij^s
one of chaungeable sarcenett xijd
one of black satin of brydges xijd
one of grene sylke xvjd
one of tawnye saten viijd
one of Russett sarcenett viijd
one of tawnye sylke viijd (worth in all xj^s iiij^d)

Swanton Morley Church

(Erased :—surplice and rochet.)

It'm one steple bell weyeng by estymacion xij^{cwt} at xv^s the cwt
(worth ix^{li})

It'm one lytle bell callyd the gabryell weyeng by estymacion
lvj^{li} after xv^s the cwt. (worth viij^s)

It'm the clapper of the steple bell weyeng by estymacion
xl pounds.....(worth iij^s iiij^d)

It'm the clapper of ye lyttle bell weyeng by estimacion v^l
(worth v^d.)

Before this, John Sooleye and William Pennyman, Churchwardens, had already disposed of a pair of censers and other plate weighing about 40 ounces and valued at £9 5s. od. Also a Cross of silver and parcel gilt for £10 9s. od. The proceeds of these sales were used to purchase timber and lead for repairing the Church. It looks as if they had heard of the confiscations carried out by the Visitation in other parts of the country and were determined to save what they could. If you multiply the sums given above by thirty you will aproximate more or less to present values, and it will give you some idea of the robbery practised by the Visitation because, of the list given above, the Churchwardens were allowed to retain only the Chalice and bell, surplice and rochet.

The following are the explanations of some of the terms given in the above list :—

Chaleys of sylver—all gylte—was a silver chalice, plated with gold. In 1567 this may have been melted down and turned into the present Communion cup. This marks the receiving of the wine by the Laity as well as Clergy.

Pyx was the sacred box in which the Host was kept after consecration.

Shippe of sylver was the incense boat.

Coopes were Copes. A cope is a vestment worn over the surplice in processions.

Swanton Morley Church

The Gabryell Bell was the Gable Bell and therefore the Sanctus Bell, rung at the moment of consecration in the Mass.

A Rochet is a garment of fine lawn, worn by Bishops and Abbots.

Sarcenett was a silk originally made by the Saracens and brought into this country in the time of the Crusades.

The Visitation was carried out in Norfolk by the Earl of Northumberland, and as far as he was concerned it was an enriching process. I think we can presume that in this Visitation much of the stained glass in the windows was destroyed, and the painted font cover and screen would also be defaced, if not destroyed.

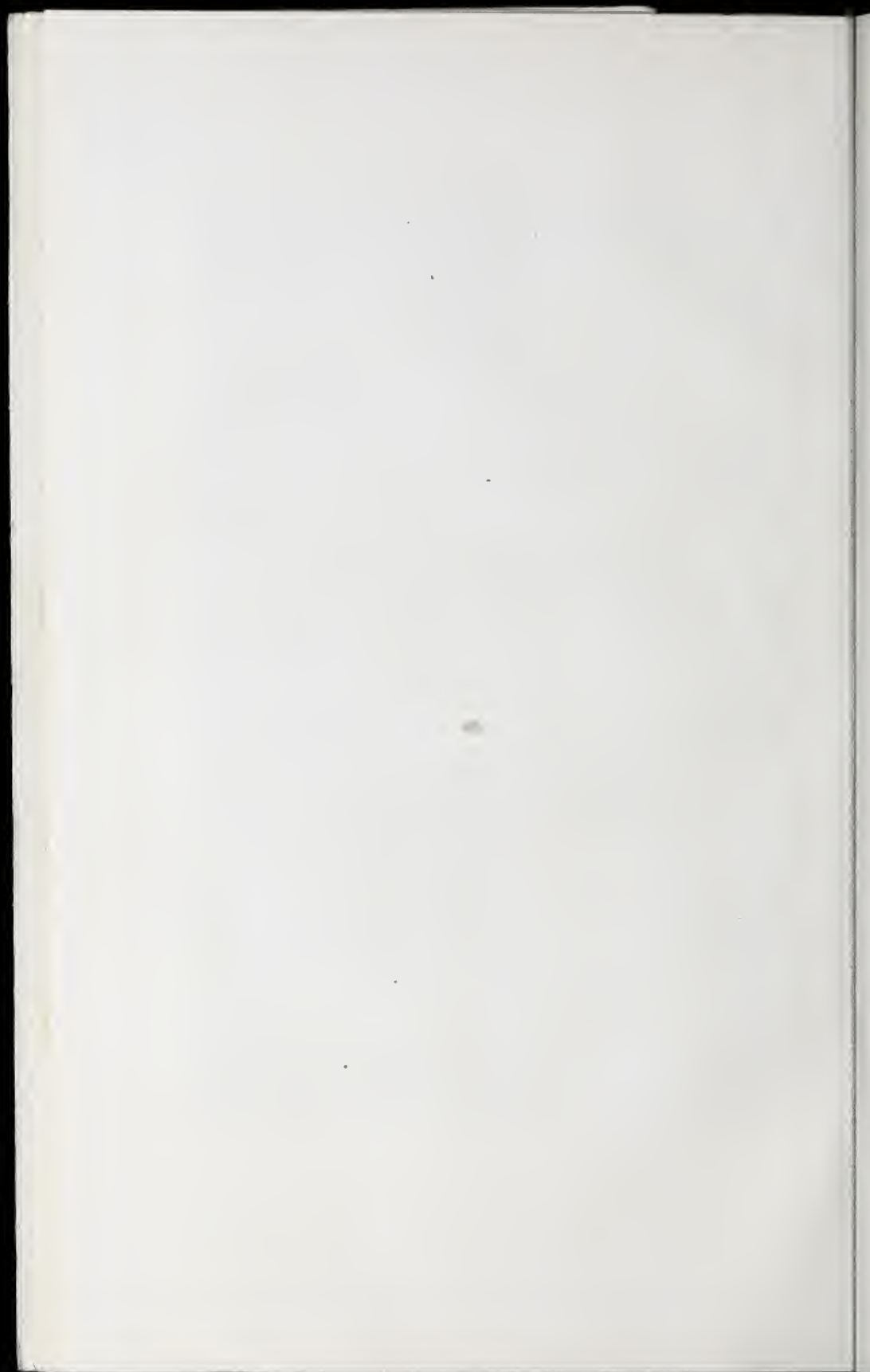
From the list given above, it will be seen that some of the changes were carried out because of the protest against purely Roman Catholic practices—some because of the Puritan fear of whatever was beautiful, and some because men were greedy and did not hesitate to enrich themselves. It is anything but a creditable story in the history of the English nation.

To this condemnation one must insert a saving clause. The nation was in dire peril of its life from some Roman Catholic nations—especially Spain—and the revolt against Roman Catholicism was not only religious but also national. To be a Roman Catholic might lay you open to the charge of being unpatriotic, and to destroy all traces of Roman Catholicism was partly an uprising of national consciousness as well as of religious faith.

So the beauty of Swanton Morley Church was destroyed by a movement that was partly religious, partly national, and partly sheer greed of loot. These conditions do not obtain now and we can strive to make Swanton Morley Church beautiful once again without laying ourselves open to the accusation of being unpatriotic. But all this, terrible though it was, does not explain how it was that the shell of a beautiful building which was left to the village was allowed to fall into disrepair. That can only have happened because the value of worship was lost.



SWANTON MORLEY CHURCH
The Nave



CHAPTER FIVE—RESTORATION

It only remains now to try and describe the restoration that has taken place in the last 22 years and explain what is being attempted at the present time.

Restoration began in 1922 when the Church tower was completely re-pointed and made safe. At the same time the bells were re-cast and re-hung, although unfortunately the third bell still has a fault in it. Then followed the restoration of the Nave roof which was not completed until 1933. As much as possible of the old woodwork was retained and the lead of the roof was re-run. In 1936 a gift of £500 from the Pilgrim Trust and a gift of £100 from Mr. Everett Heath, in memory of his parents, enabled us to restore the roof of the South Aisle. Again as much as possible of the old woodwork was retained, but it was not as extensive as in the Nave.

During the same years electric light was put into the Church, and a stained glass window was inserted in memory of Canon Hunter. In 1937 a new heating system was put in at a cost of £215. The total cost so far had amounted to £4,900, which represents a very real effort on the part of those who cared for Swanton Morley Church. Except for the window this represented very bread and butter fare—simply essentials for the preservation of the fabric of the Church. No decoration or ornamentation had been attempted.

And now at last an effort is being made to add beauty to the Church. A new Altar has been placed in the east end, longer and more in proportion to the Church. There are four Riddel posts, one at each corner, and appropriate hangings. This arrangement comes as near as may be to the original plan for the Church. Originally, of course, there would have been a stone Altar; now it is required that the Holy Table shall be of wood. The former Table—Jacobean—has been reduced to its original size and placed in the South Aisle. Stained glass has been placed in the east window. This window does not lend itself to any pictorial form of stained glass; the five lights are each of them some fifteen feet long by two feet, and a design,

Swanton Morley Church

shall we say, of the Crucifixion, would plainly be quite impossible. So it was decided to put in Coats of Arms which are descriptive of some of the history of the parish. Reading down from the top left-hand light of the window, the Coats of Arms are as follows :—

Morley, Lombe, Caius, Parker, Coldham, The Emblem of the Trinity, See of Norwich, East Anglia, Badge of R.A.F., Le-Neve, Jegon, Bedingfield, Lincoln Seal, Usher.

The Morley family were Lords of the Manor from 1316 to 1475 and the Church was begun in the life-time of Sir William Morley.

The Lombe family have been Lords of the Manor since 1780, and it was the present Major Evans Lombe who exchanged the patronage of the living with Caius College for Great Melton.

Caius College, Cambridge, are the patrons of the living, and so it seemed right that their Coat of Arms should be in the window. Canon Hunter was the first Rector appointed by the College.

The Parker family became Lords of the Manor through the marriage of Sir William Parker to Alice, daughter of William Lovel, Lord Morley, and Eleanor his wife. This Sir William Parker was standard-bearer to Richard III. The Manor descended to their son, Sir Henry Parker, a learned man who wrote pamphlets and theological books.

The Coldham family lived at Swanton Morley Park—the Park Farm of to-day. They were a great weaving family, and the weaving of worsteds was once a flourishing trade of the village.

The Emblem of the Trinity needs no explanation.

The See of Norwich must always have been the diocese of this Church, but possibly North Elmham was the Cathedral Church of the old Saxon Church in Swanton Morley.

East Anglia is in because this parish is a tiny portion of East Anglia and symbolises the coming of Christianity to the place.

Swanton Morley Church

The badge of the R.A.F. is symbolic of the history of this parish in the years of war, and some day perhaps we shall be allowed to give the full story of what the Camp did in those momentous years.

The Le Neve family were Rectors of this parish more or less from 1592 to 1742. Robert Le Neve was the first of this succession of Rectors and he is noteworthy because he commenced the present register of this parish, and his preface at the beginning stresses the desirability of keeping a record of births, marriages and deaths. This succession was only broken twice—once during the Cromwellian wars when the Puritan minister, John Gostling, was made Rector and Francis Le Neve was evicted from the living because of his sympathies with the Royalist cause. The second break in the succession of the Le Neve family as Rectors happened when William Jegon became Rector 1680 to 1711.

William Jegon was educated at Eton and became a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. His tombstone tells us that he was a scholarly and saintly man, and the registers lead us also to suppose that he was a faithful priest.

The Bedingfield family were Lords of the Manor from 1583 to the time when, under Cromwell, the lands were forfeit because of the Bedingfield adherence to the cause of Charles I. Sir Henry Bedingfield was Constable of the Tower of London, which made him guardian of the Princess Elizabeth—afterwards Queen. She found him scrupulous and conscientious as regards the orders of his Royal mistress (Queen Mary) but considerate to herself.

The Lincoln Seal is a copy of the seal which Richard Lincoln used when he signed his will in 1615, "at the new mansion of me, Richard Lincoln, in Swanton Morley." As there is a separate chapter dealing with the Swanton Morley contribution to the emigration to America of the ancestors of the famous President of the United States of America—Abraham Lincoln—there is no need to insert more about it here.

Swanton Morley Church

The Seal of Richard Lincoln may well be in, too, in order to symbolise the families of yeoman farmers in the place, and of their care for and interest in the Church. Richard Lincoln may have been Churchwarden at Swanton Morley from about 1599 until his death, and Henry Lincoln, his grandson, was Churchwarden in the year 1688.

The Usher arms are in because the Rev. R. N. Usher was Rector when the window was put in.

KEY TO EAST WINDOW					
NORTH SIDE.				SOUTH SIDE.	
	(1) St. John The Baptist	(2) St. Anne	(3) Blessed Virgin Mary	(4) St. Thomas	
(5) St. Dorothy	(6) St. Helena of Colchester			(7) St. Francis of Assisi	(8) St. Juliana of Norwich
		(9) St. Michael	(10) St. Gabriel		
		(16) The Emblem of the Holy Trinity			(22) Arms of Bedingfeld
(11) Arms of Morley	(14) Arms of Parker	(17) Arms of the See of Norwich	(20) Arms of Le Neve		
(12) Arms of Lombe					(23) Seal of Richard Lincoln
	(15) Arms of Coldham	(18) Arms of East Anglia	(21) Arms of Jegon		
(13) Arms of Gonville of Caius College					(24) Arms of Usher
		(19) Badge of the R.A.F.			

Swanton Morley Church

The four figures at the top represent the four Guilds which have been dealt with already. In the window they may well symbolise for us the folk of the village, the mother, the housewife, the tradesmen, the servants of husbandry.

S. Dorothy—a popular saint on Norfolk screens—and S. Helena of Colchester may symbolise the piety of East Anglia. Gabriel and S. Michael remind us that our worship is “with angels and archangels and all the company of Heaven.” S. Francis of Assisi symbolises the love of country and of Nature, and Juliana of Norwich the idealist and visionary.

So it is hoped that the window does put into colour the varied history and life of the village.

Recent investigations have revealed the piscinas by the old Altars, one in the North Aisle and one in the South Aisle. The two arches near them are unexplained; possibly they were intended for tombs of some well-known persons. In the porch, too, the remains of the holy water stoup have been uncovered.

Such is an outline of the story of this wonderful Church. Dr. Cranage holds it to be the finest example in Norfolk of the transition from the Decorated Period to the Perpendicular Period. This handbook is written in the hope that all who read it will help to restore it to something of its former glory. “The House that is to be builded for the Lord must be exceeding Magnifical, of fame and of glory throughout all countries.”

These brief additional notes may be of interest. The Church possesses an Elizabethan Communion Cup with the inscription SWANTON MORLAY ALL SAYNTES. ANO 1567. This is a beautiful piece and may have been made from the original Chalice.

A stand paten of 1711 made by John East and engraved in script in the centre—Swanton Morley All Saints 1712. It is decorated with the sacred monogram IHS with a nail and cross.

There is a silver flagon made by William Eley in 1779. The inscription on it is Swanton Morley 1779.

Swanton Morley Church

The Royal Arms of Queen Anne are worthy of note ; only for seven years were the Royal Arms as depicted :—

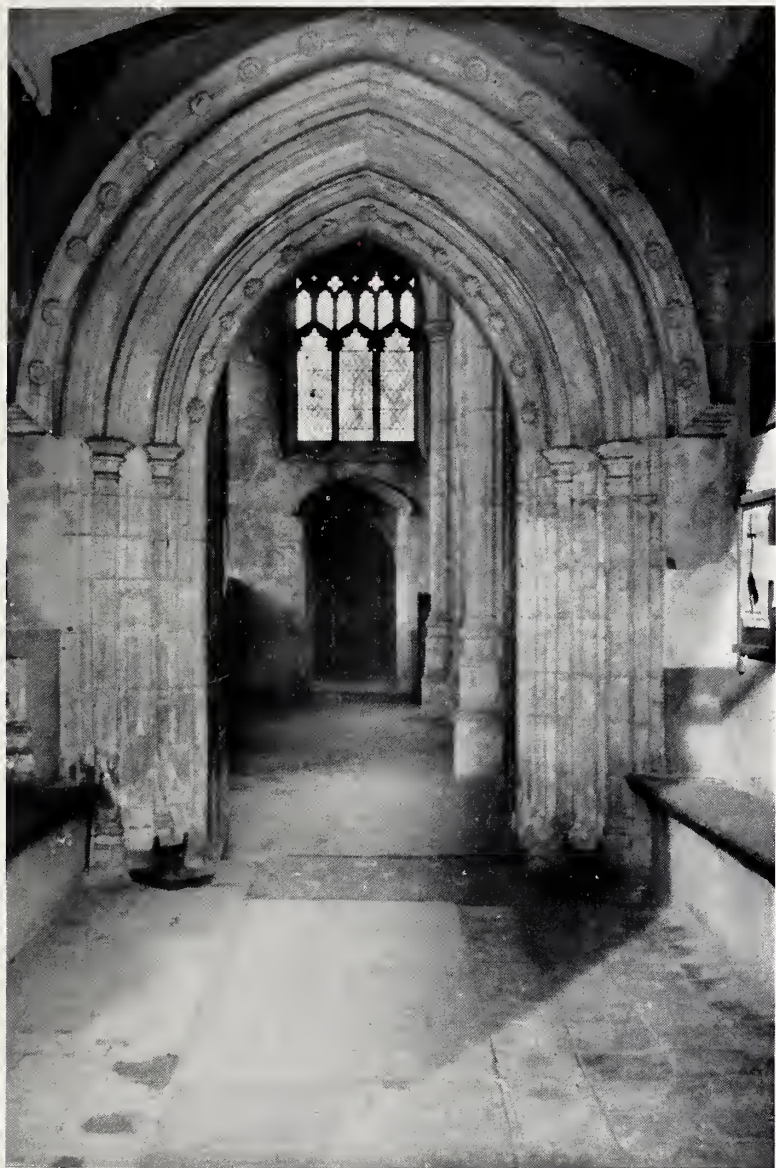
Quarterly. 1 & 4. England impaling Scotland.

2. France Modern. 3. Ireland.

The painter may have been the village carpenter ; he has made a mistake in the motto at the bottom :—DIEV IT MON DROIT FOR DIEU ET MON DROIT.

The Parish Registers go back to 1538. The original sheets are lost but Robert Neave, Rector in 1592, collected as much as he was able and preserved them for posterity. Originally there was a Latin preface to the Registers but this has been lost. The Latin is very difficult to translate but the following is as accurate as may be :—

“ To all readers of the following Register, whosoever they be—salutation. If it be a grateful, useful and pleasant matter for us to cultivate the memory of our ancestors, and for our posterity to do the same for ours, the prelates of the English Church have done well in that they order, by a sacred and inviolable Canon, that the year, month and day on which any one shall have been baptised, married or buried, should be faithfully recorded in tables. The day of birth, which is shown to us by the baptism, is as it were the threshold and the general entrance to the tender years which follow. Then, when we have hardly passed beyond youth and the flower of our age, we desire to enter marriage and the pleasant contract of matrimony. Then the light of our life, as it were rejoicing in its summer solstice, day by day falls back towards its winter and its last setting, these being the first, middle and last periods of our life, and we shall have done very well if our middle age corresponds happily with our first, and our last day similarly with the middle. It becomes us to attend to the matter with diligent and studious care, for much inconvenience would be caused both to ourselves and our posterity, if these matters were not inserted and graphically described in our Registers, and the Sacred Anglican Synod foresaw this evil when it passed the new and very necessary law that the Registers should be written on parchment. I have endeavoured by



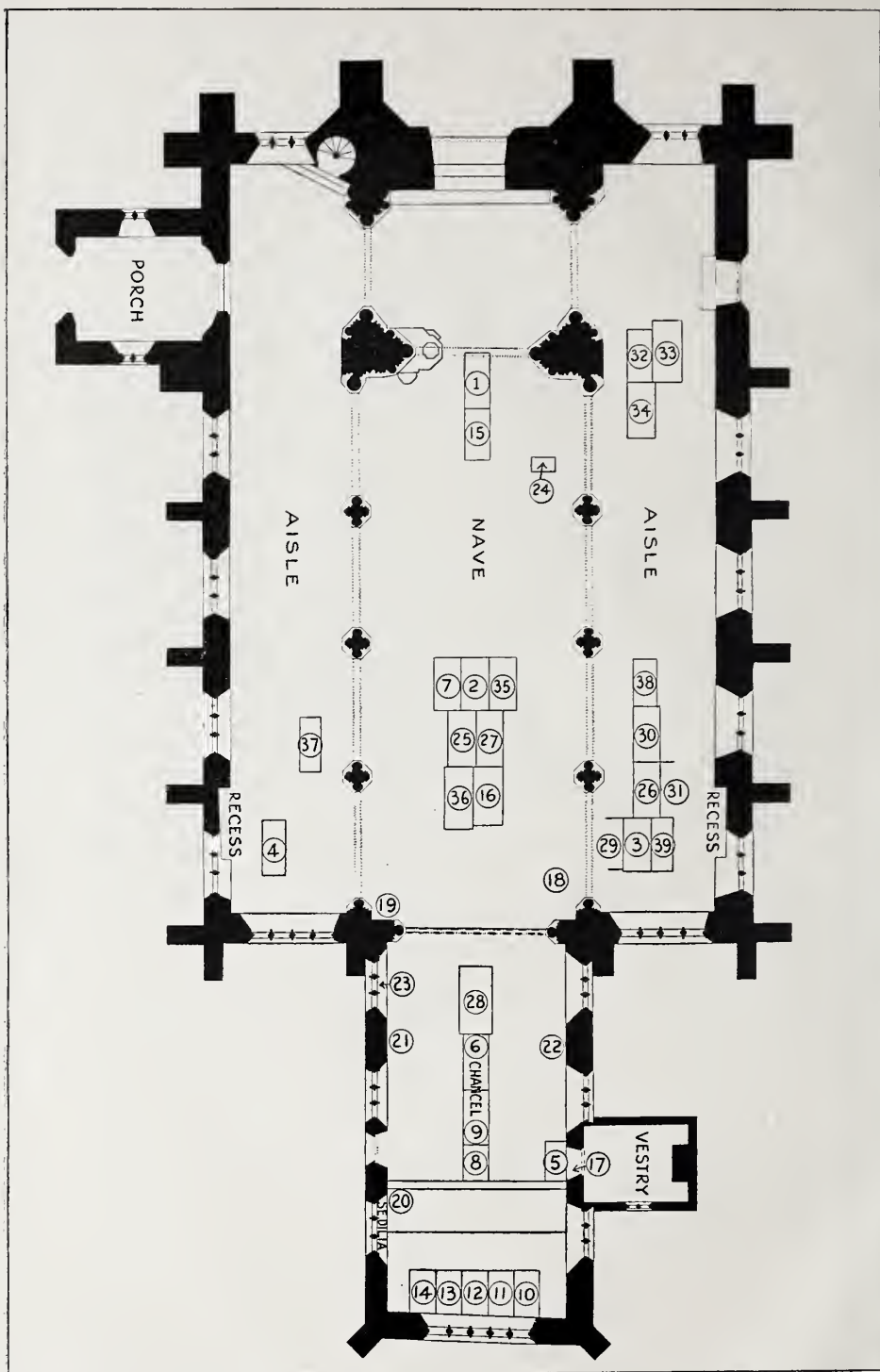
SWANTON MORLEY CHURCH
The South Doorway of the Nave.

Swanton Morley Church

diligent searching, so that my observance of this so useful and salutary law may be clear : nor have I left anything untried, in order that nothing which could possibly be of use to ourselves or to posterity should be lacking to this Register. In truth, the Rectors who have preceded me in this Church although in all else they shine forth splendidly and becomingly, in this matter seem to have somewhat failed the Church and posterity. I have found indeed written on scraps of paper many names, and to reduce these to order was a task necessary indeed for others, but very difficult for myself. There were also many other names which by no search or enquiry could be found by me. If, therefore, I seem not to have fully satisfied the most prudent and wholesome statute and canon of our Church, of which I have spoken, it will be clear from what is written below in these pages, that I have sufficiently done what duty demanded. In faithful witness of which both I, Robert Neave, at this present Rector of this Church, and also certain parishioners of good and honourable report who dwell in this village of Swanton, have together signed our names, this tenth day of the month of June, in the 44th year of our most serene Lady Elizabeth, now Queen of England, and in the year of the renewal of our salvation by Jesus Christ, 1599.

Ro. Neave, Rector Swanton Morley.”

J. L.
R. L.
G. S.



PLAN OF SWANTON MORLEY CHURCH
Looking from the Chancel.

F. W. Steer

SCHEDULE OF MEMORIALS REFERRED TO ON GROUND
PLAN OF SWANTON MORLEY CHURCH

1. John Bone, late 15th century.
2. Robert Rokisby, late 15th century.
3. Thomas and Margaret Barrett, late 15th century.
4. Thomas Wightman, and two wives, 1533.
5. Susanna Neve, 1672.
6. Charles Neve, 1744, and his son Charles, 1743.
7. Thomas Davy, 1692.
8. William Jegon, M.A., 1710.
9. Elizabeth Larling, 1729.
10. Francis Jessop, 1749.
11. Susanna Ewin, 1749.
12. William Ewin, 1764.
13. Thomas Ewin, 1779.
14. Susanna Ewin, 1795.
15. Peter Ransom, 1797.
16. Hannah and Joshua Furness, 1804 and 1820.
17. William Collett, 1825, and family.
18. William Collett, 1825.
19. Henry Tacy and William Millett.
20. Mary Ellen Lombe, 1878.
21. Charles Webb, 1900.
22. James Andrew Lewton-Brane, 1917.
23. Andrew Johnston Hunter, 1914, and Agnes Blanche Hunter, 1925.
24. Cicely Parham, 1656.
25. Rachel Parham, 1714.
26. Elizabeth Parham, 1718.
27. Nicholas Parham, 1719.
28. Peter Parham, 1723.
29. Thomas Parham, 1723.
30. Martha Dove, 1732.
31. Peter Parham, 1737.
32. Matthew Southgate, 1762.
33. Frances Southgate, 1775.
34. Elizabeth Hagon, 1787.
35. Thomas Fleming, 1657.
36. George Fleming, 1713.
37. James Coldham, 1698.
38. Matrix.
39. Matrix.

CHAPTER SIX

SWANTON MORLEY AND THE LINCOLN FAMILY

In a Chapter on Swanton Morley and the Lincoln Family it should be stated at the outset that Swanton Morley does not claim to be the home of the Lincolns, in the sense that the Lincoln family comes from there. On the contrary, this chapter is written, accepting entirely the view of such American writers as Lee—and William Barton—that the Lincoln family came from Hingham in Norfolk. It is quite true that a direct ancestor of Abraham Lincoln lived in Swanton Morley from at least 1599 to 1620, and indeed seems to have been Churchwarden there from 1599. But the reason why the claim of Swanton Morley is unique is that there the will was made that brought about the emigration to America of the emigrant, Samuel Lincoln, who was the great-great-great-great-grandfather of Abraham Lincoln, and moreover, Swanton Morley still possesses the house in which that will was made.

It has been stated above that this account accepts the findings of the historians Lee and Hutchinson—and William Barton—that Samuel Lincoln was the original emigrant in the year 1637—that Samuel Lincoln was born in Hingham, Norfolk, and that he was the son of Edward Lincoln.

Edward Lincoln was the eldest son of Richard Lincoln, by his first wife, Elizabeth. Richard Lincoln married four times, the name of his fourth wife being Anne. By Anne, Richard had 3 children—Anne, Henry and Elizabeth—the eldest, Anne, being born in 1599. In 1615, Richard Lincoln sat down in his new mansion at Swanton Morley and made his will. By this will, except for a few gifts—he disinherited his eldest son, and gave his property in Swanton Morley and Hingham, to his fourth wife and his children by her—Henry to have the farm. Richard Lincoln died December 1620.

The will was contested by Edward, the eldest son in Chancery, in 1621, but he lost his case, and so Edward had nothing else to do but to go to his cottage with two acres of land at



THE ANGEL INN
Shewing the Seventeenth Century chimneys (front view)



Swanton Morley Church

Hingham, given him by his father some years before and no doubt he and his family lived in considerable poverty. At any rate, 3 out of his 4 sons emigrated to America to seek their fortunes in the New World—and one of these 3 sons was called Samuel. Samuel was an apprenticed weaver, when he sailed for Hingham in America with his master, Francis Lawes, on April 8th, 1637.

So far the American writers take the story, and it seems reasonable to make two deductions. If Edward, the eldest son, had inherited the farm at Swanton Morley, he would have remained there, and worked the farm with his sons. But the will, made in 1615 at Swanton Morley, disinherited him, and so Edward went to live at Hingham, and 3 of his sons ultimately emigrated.

So the claim, of Swanton Morley is not that the place was an original home of the Lincolns—Richard Lincoln may well have been born in Hingham, because in his will he asks to be buried in the 'middle alley' of Hingham Parish Church—the claim of Swanton Morley is that there the will was made that brought about the emigration to America of Samuel Lincoln—a direct ancestor of Abraham Lincoln.

The matter might have rested there, but a chance discovery of an ancient map has made the problem much more interesting. The map was the Manorial map of Swanton Morley dated 1692, and it was drawn up by Rowland Nicholson so as to show every field in the parish, and the owner of every field. Would the map reveal where the Lincoln family lived? It did, and the enclosed plan reveals exactly what was seen on the map.

Henry Lincoln, of the map, was the son of Henry Lincoln, the youngest son of Richard Lincoln. He was therefore the grandson of Richard Lincoln who made the will. In that will, the farm at Swanton Morley—stated as freehold—was left to Henry Lincoln.

When the tracing on the map was compared with a modern survey map, it revealed that the site of the Lincoln farm was the present Angel Inn. An investigation of the Angel Inn has shewn that a portion of the building dates from about 1610 A.D.

Año dñi 1599

Ann y^e daughter of Richard Lincolne
was christened y^e sixt of May

Ann ye daughter of Richard Lincolne was christened ye sixt of May.

Anno Dñi 1602

Elizabeth y^e daughter of Richard
Lincolne y^e of November

Elizabeth the dawghter of Richard Lincolne the of November.

A.D. 1605

Henry the sonne of Richard Lincolne
y^e of June
of Henry the sonne

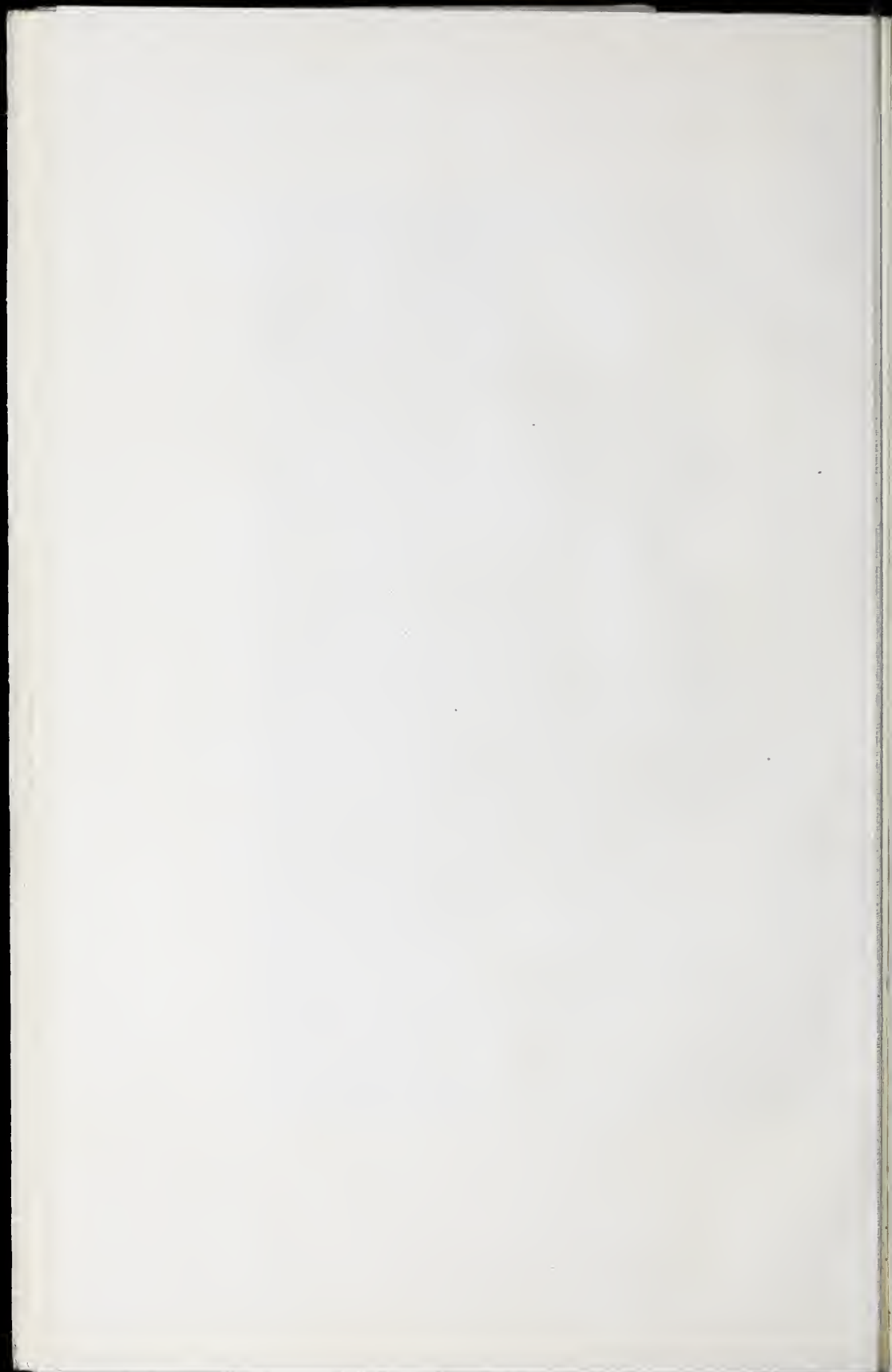
Henry the sonne of Richard Lincolne the xxiiijth of June.

This Bible where bought by M^r. Hen^{ry}. Lincoln
Church Warden of Swanton Morley in the year 1686

Facsimile of the Inscription on the title page
of the Bible.



THE ANGEL INN
Shewing the steep roof (back view)



Swanton Morley Church

The only other statement that need be made about the map is that it was drawn up by a jury of 15 men of the parish, deciding who was the owner of each particular field. Henry Lincoln states on oath, that though the 'Old Book' (presumably the Manorial Roll) gives his property as copyhold, yet in reality it was freehold.

This is interesting, because Richard Lincoln states distinctly in his will that his property at Swanton Morley was freehold.

So the ancient map of 1692 revealed where the Lincoln land was, and there seems no doubt that the present Angel Inn is the 'new mansion of me Richard Lincoln' as he describes it in his will. A house that could be described as 'new' in 1615 might well have been built about the year 1610.

All this would seem to suggest that a house belonging to one of the direct ancestors of Abraham Lincoln—Richard Lincoln was the great-great-great-great-great grandfather of Abraham Lincoln—is still in existence to-day in Swanton Morley, and that in that house was made the will that impoverished one branch of the family, and caused three members of that branch to emigrate to America.

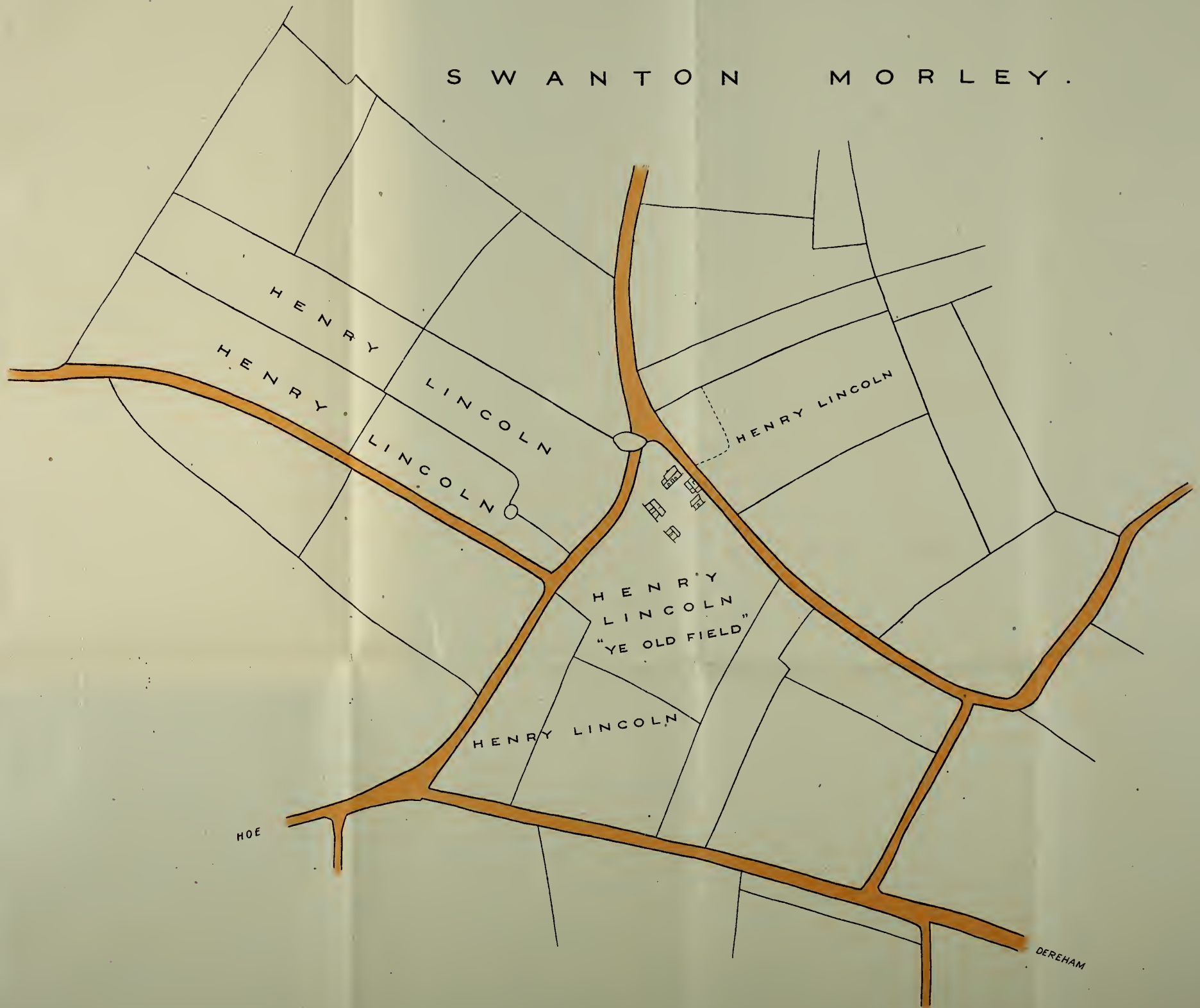
There is perhaps something more that can be added. The branch of the family that was impoverished, dared and adventured—and two hundred and fifty years after their impoverishment, gave to America their great President. The branch of the family that inherited the property and money of the Lincoln family settled down, no doubt, in comfort in Swanton Morley. For one generation—for two generations they seem to have progressed—Henry Lincoln, the Henry of the map and the grandson of Richard Lincoln was Churchwarden in the year 1686, for there is still in existence an old Bible belonging to Swanton Morley Church which states 'This Bible where bought by Mr. Henry Lincoln, Churchwarden of Swanton Morley in the year 1686.' After his death the family seemed to have faded away and by the middle of the 18th century there is no trace of them in the Church registers. At any rate by the same date, the 'new mansion of me Richard Lincoln' had passed out of the family.

The Plan attached is an actual
transfer from the Manorial
Map of Swanton Morley Manor
dated 1692.

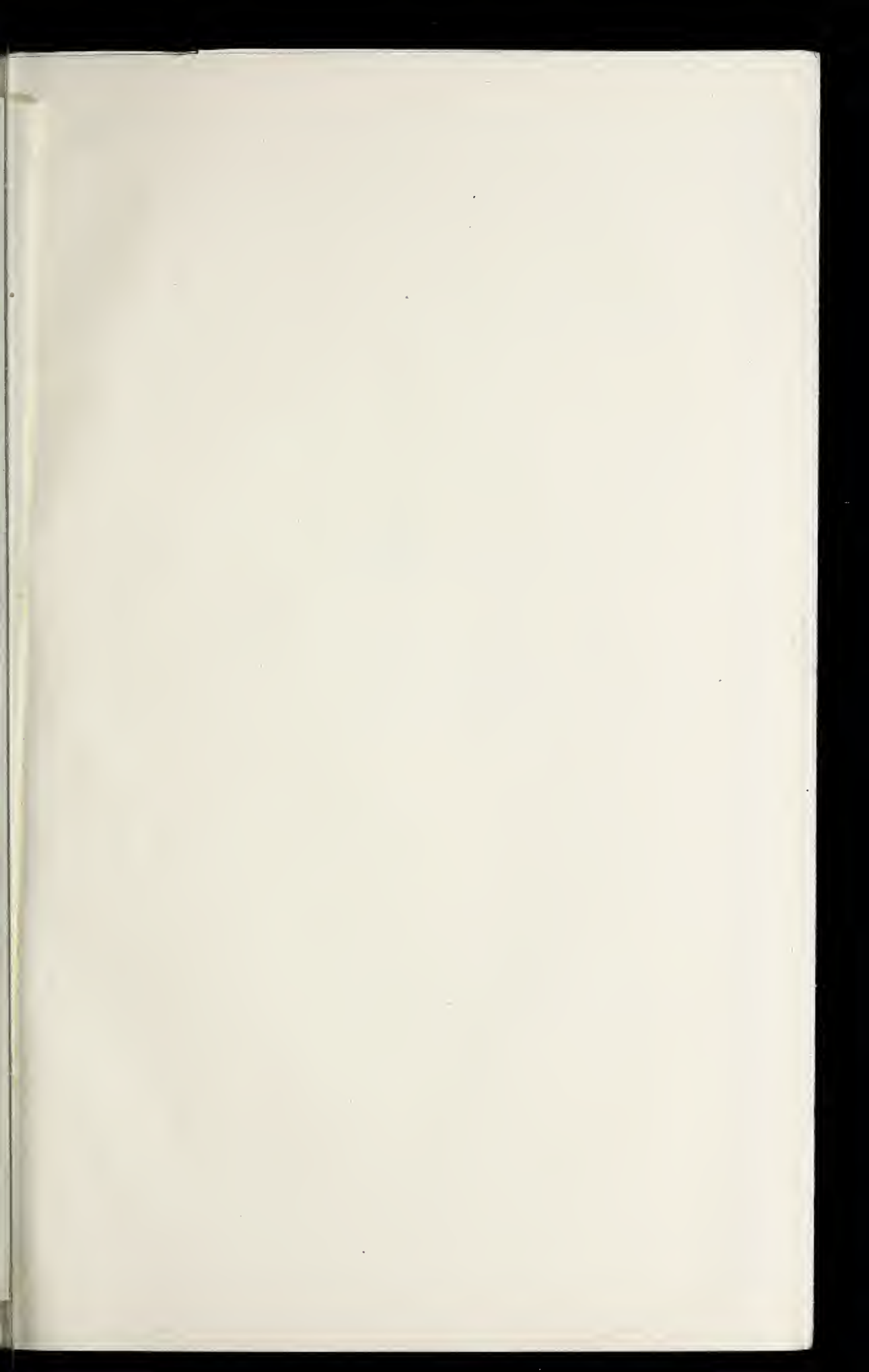
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The Plan attached is an actual
transfer from the Manorial
Map of Swanton Morley Manor
dated 1692.

S W A N T O N M O R L E Y .









Printed by
THE SOMAN-WHERRY PRESS LIMITED
14, Heigham Street
NORWICH

Friends of Swanton Morley Church

NORFOLK

President : S. C. KEITH, ESQ., Swanton Morley House, East Dereham.

Hon. Secretary : W. LAKE, ESQ., Bylaugh, Dereham, Norfolk.

The object of this Society is to provide an annual income to be expended on the re-furnishing and improvement of this ancient and celebrated Norfolk church. There are many items which are required to restore some of its mediæval splendour, and it is impossible for these to be provided and the fabric kept in repair without generous assistance from outside the parish.

You are therefore earnestly requested to associate yourself with the restoration work which has already commenced and which needs large funds to continue.

The best way in which you can help is by becoming one of the Friends of Swanton Morley Church. The minimum annual subscription is Five shillings, but it is hoped that you will supplement your subscription by a donation which will be used towards the cost of any specific item. A programme of works which it is desired to carry out is displayed in the church or can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary of the Society.

The Hon. Secretary,
Friends of Swanton Morley Church,

.....

.....

I have pleasure in enclosing the sum of.....being my subscription to the Friends of Swanton Morley church for 19 .

I also enclose.....being a donation to further the work of this Society and desire that this should be applied at the discretion of the Committee (or towards the cost of.....)

Name and Style.....

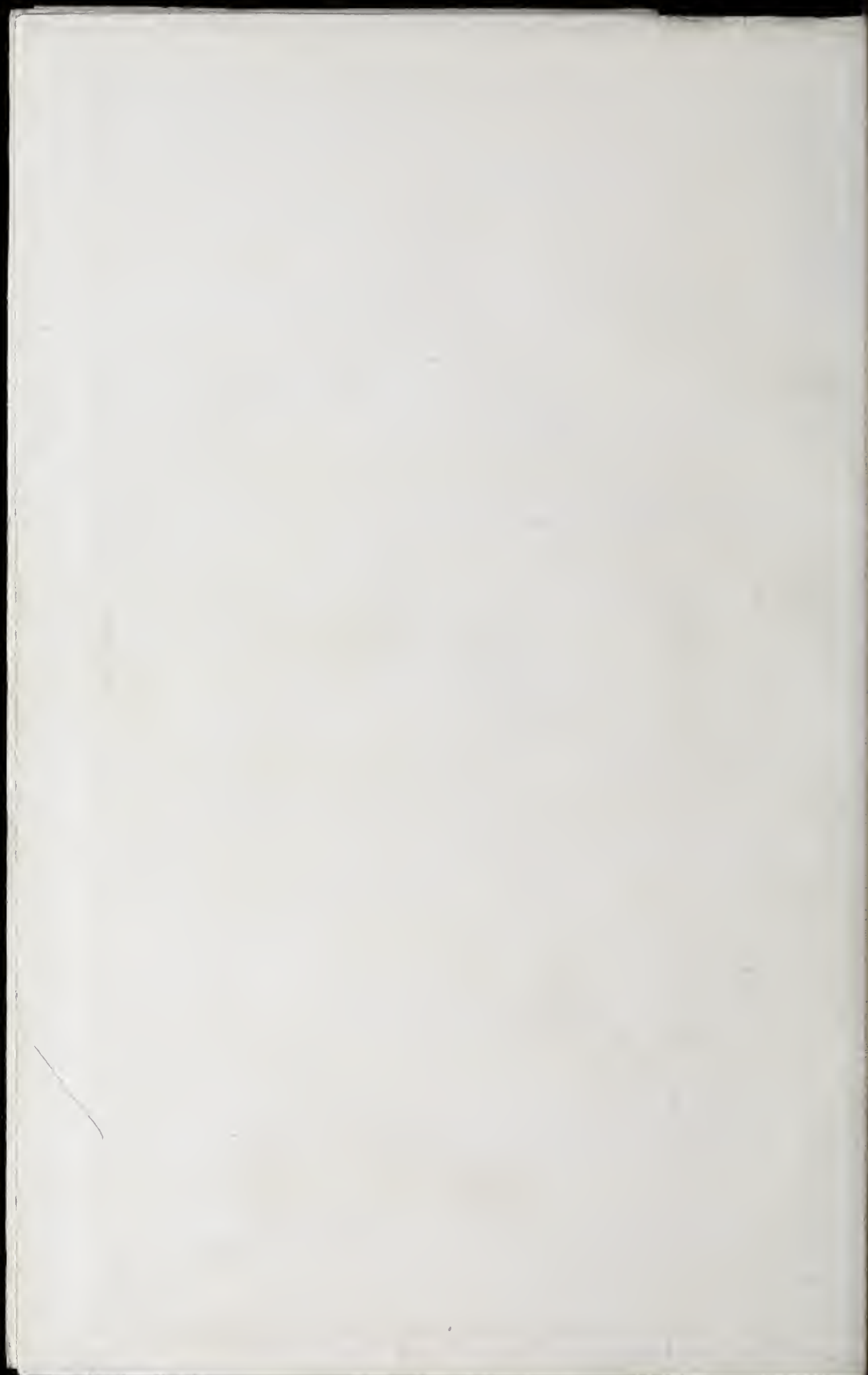
Permanent Address.....

Date.....

Signature.....







LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 851

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

July 30, 1945

EARLIEST HOME OF THE LINCOLNS IN ENGLAND

The great numbers of Americans who have been located in England during the war has called attention to some of the memorials erected there which are associated with our history, and of course Lincoln has been given special attention. The secretary of The National Trust, D. M. Matheson, in a letter to the director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation, written on September 10, 1943, observed that to the man in the street, "Abraham Lincoln stands out as a great figure in world history who enunciated in unforgettable terms a doctrine of government which is now again at stake and for which we are fighting side by side." This letter was prompted by some new discoveries which have established the location of the earliest home of Abraham Lincoln's ancestors now standing on English soil.

On Lincoln's birthday, February 12, 1944, *The Daily Sketch*, published in London, announced that "Col. John Leslie, the coal owner, bought the original site of the home of Lincoln's ancestors, a small piece of land on the outskirts of the village of Swanton Morley in Norfolk." The news dispatch continued "Today he will hand the title deeds over to the marquess of Zetland who will receive them in behalf of The National Trust. After the war the site will be used as a memorial museum for exhibits connected with the Lincoln family."

Supplementing the information about the preservation of the old dwelling there has just come from the press at Norwich, England, a brochure entitled *Swanton Morley Church* by Rev. R. N. Usher, M.A. One chapter of the pamphlet is a discussion of "Swanton Morley and the Lincoln Family," with maps and illustrations which establish the identity of the old building and surrounding property. Francis W. Steer is acknowledged by the author as one of the contributors to the source material he has used. Correspondence passing between Mr. Steer and the Foundation indicates he is still bringing to light new material on the English Lincolns.

The brochure not only gives a fine picture of the church where the Lincoln family attended but also two views of the old residence which Richard Lincoln occupied now known as "The Angel Inn." Supplementing these illustrations is an official plan which is a reproduction of "an actual transfer from the manorial map of Swanton Morley Manor made in 1692." The map shows six separate tracts, all adjacent, which were under the name of Henry Lincoln, grandson of Richard. Richard refers in his will to the residence he was then occupying as the "new mansion of me Richard Lincoln." The best evidence now available seems to suggest the house now called "The Angel Inn" was built about the year 1610, or two hundred years before Abraham Lincoln was born. "The Angel Inn" not only becomes a valuable shrine as the oldest known home of Lincoln's ancestors but it is the very house in which he signed his last will and testament which was indirectly responsible for the migration of some of his descendants to America. Richard Lincoln at the time he made his will in 1615 was married to his fourth wife and by her had three children, Henry, Anne and Elizabeth. He passed away on December 23, 1620. On February 24 following,

the widow Anne Bird Lincoln presented his will for probate. Lea and Hutchinson, joint authors of the book, *The Ancestry of Abraham Lincoln*, made a close study of the Richard Lincoln estate. They noted that "Samuel Lincoln's paternal grandfather (Richard), undoubtedly died possessed of a very respectable estate, and had the bulk of it descended in the ordinary course to his eldest son, the father of our boy-emigrant would have been apparently well-to-do. As it was, his father's fourth marriage ruined his prospects in life and by raising up other hands to grasp the property made of him a comparatively poor man. . . . The question whether the sons would have emigrated had the father been more prosperous opens up a wide vista of speculation."

Lea and Hutchinson also relate with some detail the litigation which took place upon Edward Lincoln's attempt to break his father's will which had bequeathed the bulk of the property to a younger brother. He failed in his purpose and removed to a small two-acre tract of land in Hingham not far away. It was from Hingham that the seventeen year old son of Edward and grandson of Richard migrated to America in 1837 and settled near Hingham, Massachusetts. Samuel was the first American progenitor of the President and was six generations removed from Samuel, or nine generations removed from Richard Lincoln of Swanton Morely.

The preservation of the old homes in which the various generations of Lincolns have lived has been one of the most important factors in creating a factual historical background for the family. One may start with the Springfield, Illinois, home of Abraham Lincoln, now a state shrine. visit the birthplace cabin at Hodgenville, Kentucky, travel over the wilderness road to Rockingham County, Virginia where the old Jacob Lincoln home stands. The back part of this structure was built by his brother Abraham, grandfather of the President, and from whom he originally purchased the property.

From Virginia the trail leads into Berks County, Pennsylvania, where there is located in a fine state of preservation the Mordecai Lincoln home. Even the beautiful colonial residence of Mordecai Lincoln, Senior at Scituate, Massachusetts, although somewhat remodeled, stands as a fine monument to the industry of the New England Lincolns. This Mordecai was the son of Samuel Lincoln who migrated from England in 1637, and whose father Edward probably lived at one time in the old home recently identified in Swanton Morley, England. It is possible that further research may discover even an earlier home of the Lincolns, and if so, it will probably be found at Hingham, England, where Robert Lincoln, father of Richard Lincoln, resided.

A visit to any one of the three ancestral homes located respectively in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts will make one come away with the feeling that Abraham Lincoln descended from a substantial American family.

THE NATIONAL TRUST
for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty

42, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE, S.W.1

Secretary, Historic Buildings Committee :
James Lees-Milne

Tel. No. : Whitehall 0211/2

JIM/MR/1376

15th October 1945

The Director,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne,
Indiana.

Dear Sir,

Abraham Lincoln Memorial
Swanton Morley.

I think you will remember a year or so ago your having correspondence with Mr. Matheson, the late Secretary, who has now retired, on the above matter.

As you may be aware, early in 1944, the Ambassador to the United States, over here had a ceremony at the American Embassy, formally handing over the title deeds of the land at Swanton Morley supposed to be formerly in possession of the Lincoln family. At that time I think it was understood that after the war some suitable memorial should be erected on the site to Abraham Lincoln. Since then, however, further investigations reveal that another separate piece of land that had belonged to the Lincoln family contained part of the very residence that must have been the home of the Lincolns. This house is now incorporated in the Village Inn and there is no doubt that with only a little alteration it could be restored to what it must have been in the Lincoln's time. A bit of the garden of this

Inn has been made over to the National Trust who likewise have restrictive covenants over the house itself and all the old Lincoln property.

The owners of the Inn, Messrs Bullards, the Local Brewers, have made it plain that they could acquire alternative accommodation they might be prepared to sell the Inn to us at a later time, and we cannot help thinking that perhaps the most suitable form of memorial might be to have the actual old home of the Lincolns ^{acquired and} judiciously restored and made into a Museum.

Now that the war is over we feel the first thing we should do is to approach your Society with a view to finding out what steps you would recommend should be taken as regards the memorial. At present there is of course absolutely nothing to indicate to visitors either where the land is or how much has been preserved. We feel it is possible that your Society might prefer that the National Trust should grant to them control or rights over the site for the American people to erect their own memorial, the National Trust merely being guardians over it on their behalf. We are inclined to suppose that this ^{might} be the proper course.

I have lately written to the Ambassador's Secretary who has advised me to get in touch with you ^{and to ascertain your views}

Yours faithfully,

James Lees-Milne

P.S. I have sent a similar letter to the United States Department of the Interior.

November 9, 1945

Mr. James Lees-Milne
The National Trust
42, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1
London, England

My dear Mr. Milne:

The Lincoln National Life Foundation for the past seventeen years has made an intensive study of the life of Abraham Lincoln and has gathered in its museum at Fort Wayne seven thousand volumes including books and pamphlets, exclusively Lincoln.

The Foundation is primarily a research organization and there are no funds available for memorializing a project so ambitious as the one you have set before you.

We would be very happy indeed to do what we can to create an interest in the project, but I cannot feel that we could be of any financial assistance to you, as the Foundation is not sponsored by a group of wealthy men but by a business institution which has supported the enterprise.

I do take occasion to enclose a bulletin which we issued recently with respect to your project, and inasmuch as this bulletin goes out to five thousand people in America interested in Abraham Lincoln, you can readily see that the way has been fairly well paved for any effort that might be put forth by governmental authorities or others with power and influence to carry through such a project as you suggest.

I need not say that we are entirely in sympathy with the effort and of course will give our best influence and encouragement for the consummation of the plan.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB
Enc.

Director

THE NATIONAL TRUST
for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty

42, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE, S.W.1

Secretary, Historic Buildings Committee :

Tel. No. : Whitehall 0211/2

James Lees-Milne

LAW:EB.

JLM/M/1376.

20th November, 1945.

Mr. Louis A. Warren,
Director of the
Lincoln National Life Foundation ,
FORT WAYNE,
Indiana,
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Warren,

Swanton Morley.

Thank you for your letter of the 9th,
and for your kind interest in our endeavours
to have a suitable and appropriate memorial raised
on the site of the land formerly in the possession
of the Lincoln family.

What we feel is that a matter of this
historic interest to the United States should
not be carried out by us over here, at least,
without our ascertaining the wishes of the
American people themselves. We will, however,
keep in touch with you, and let you know what
developments take place.

With kind regards,

Yours truly,

James Lees-Milne

SWANTON MORLEY. All Saints Church.

In the time of the Domesday Survey "Suanetuna" belonged to Ralph de Beaufoe (or Bellofago). His only daughter, married Hubert de Rye, Governor of Norwich Castle. The Ryes were in great favour with the Conqueror for having saved him from the hands of conspirators. Nothing now remains of the Rye's Castle except a moated space lying in a bend of the river Wensum near Castle Farm. The old Manor of "Morley Hall" lay to the South of the Church just beyond a small stream.

No notes on Swanton Morley would be complete without a reference to the Lincoln Family. Richard Lincoln who may well have been born in Hingham lived here in the house that is now the Angel Inn and he was Churchwarden from about 1599 to 1620 when he died. Anyhow, in 1615 he disinherited his eldest son, Edward, by his first wife, Elizabeth, (he was married four times). Edward lost his appeal in Chancery against the will in 1621 and so had nothing else to do except go and live in some considerable poverty in his cottage and two acres at Hingham which his Father had given him some years before. Three of his four sons emigrated to America and one of these who was an apprentice weaver called Samuel actually sailed in 1637. Samuel Lincoln was the great-great-great-great-great-grandfather of Abraham Lincoln.

The Church itself is in exceptionally fine early Perpendicular style but as the Decorated style is still very much in evidence, particularly in the window tracery, it could almost be called Transitional. The N. Aisle and Nave were probably begun before the Black Death in 1349 as there are indications that more skilled craftsmen built them than did the S. Aisle - skilled craftsmen were not so plentiful after the Black Death. The Church is one of the best examples of this period in East Anglia. Work started on it in 1360-1440 when Lord Morley bequeathed a goldcup and 10 Marks towards it. It is approached from the South West and we will discuss the details of the outside walking round anti-clockwise.

The S. Aisle, which was completed about 1390 has four magnificent square headed windows of the Transitional period (with a preponderance of Perpendicular influence) and these are among the finest in the County. They have beautiful tracery with quatrefoils in the spandrels below the embattled transomes and more fine tracery with

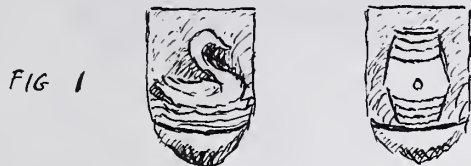
quatrefoils in the spandrels in the heads. There are prominent hood moulds over the windows and it will be noted that the parapet has been raised. There is a glorious four-light window at the E. end with magnificent tracery and an embattled transome. This fine window all but fills the entire wall space.

The Chancel, which rather unusually was built last (after 1390) is lower and plainer than the rest of the Church, possibly because by that time funds were running low. There are three Perpendicular windows on the S. side. A large iron grill on the S. side and a slit in the E. end are now the only way of seeing into the Crypt. This is situated under the altar and was used at one time as a Vestry, the steps down to it being removed when the present Vestry which is on the N. side was built in 1879. There is a fine five-light Perpendicular window in the E. end which we will discuss further later on and the three windows on the N. side are similar to those on the S. side being Perpendicular. The celtic cross on the gable has a cusped ring of glory. There is a large transitional window above the chancel arch.

The N. Aisle differs slightly from the S. Aisle as it was built earlier. The fine four-light window at the E. end has two embattled transomes and the hood mould has two grotesquely carved head stops (which were not present on the window in the S. Aisle). There are four more great square headed windows on the N. side with embattled transomes mainly Decorated but with the Perpendicular influence starting to show. The N. Doorway is Transitional with fleurons on the innermost order of mouldings and roses on the hood mould.

The Tower and West Front. It will be noted that the N. and S. Aisles embrace the Tower thus giving a continuous W. front for the full width of the Church. There are fine three-light wide windows at the W. ends of both Aisles with embattled transomes and beautiful tracery with quatrefoils in the spandrels. The Tower itself is now 95' 4" high but it used to have pinnacles on the corners. The main features, quite unrivalled in the County, are the enormous four-light bell openings with transomes and fine tracery. They occupy practically the full height of the top stage. The scund holes below these have square heads and nice perpendicular panels.

The W. window in the Tower has three lights with perpendicular traces. The W. Doorway has many orders of fine moulding and a fine reproduction of the original Perpendicular door with carvings of a swan and a tun which are a rebus on the name of Swanton. (Fig 1).



The first two stages of the Tower have octagonal buttresses and rectangular diagonal buttresses spring from these and continue right

to the top. A fine course of flint flushwork panels and a series of quatrefoils stretches right across the base of the W. front.

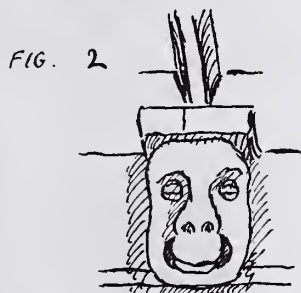
The S. Porch is fairly plain externally, the restored windows on either side having square heads with small quatrefoils in the spandrels. The roof seems to be original with moulded cornices.

There are large corbels on either side with a lion's head to the

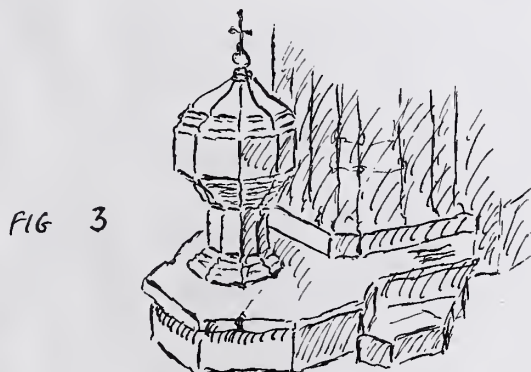
West and an odd looking human head to the East

(Fig.2). The S. Doorway is a repetition of the

N. Doorway but with less weathering. There is a Holy Water Stoup on the East side.



As we enter the Church, we see that the enormous Tower arches and the great piers with their rich and complicated system of mouldings do actually form the first bay of the Nave. It will be noted that the base of the plain font is attached to the S.E. pier of the Tower (Fig.3)



The Nave has very high and graceful arcades and these must have looked even more so originally when there were no benches in the Church.

The piers appear as quatrefoils in section but on closer examination they will be seen to be much more intricate. The projections towards the Nave and the Aisles are polygonal and are connected to the demi-shafts towards the arches

with deep hollows in between and look most attractive. This style is most unusual and may be unique. The demi-shafts alone have capitals which are half round and the abaci above are polygonal. Due to the great height of the arcades, the clerestory windows are

rather small with quatrefoils in squares. There is a fine Transitional window above the chancel arch. The Roof has arched beams up to the ridge and parts are original and some carving can be seen. There is a tiny 4" opening in the E. wall of the Tower for the Sanctus Bell. The Pulpit is Victorian with a nicely carved wooden top on a very heavy and cumbersome stone base.

In the N. Aisle, the organ has just been installed and there is a Tomb Recess in the N. Wall behind it and a piscina in the S. wall at the E. end.

The Royal Arms are Queen Anne dated 1711 and are very rare being only depicted thus for a period of seven years. The painter, who may have been the village carpenter, made a mistake in the Motto at the bottom.

In the S. Aisle there is a small piscina and the altar table is Jacobean. This was the original altar table from the E. end that replaced the stone altar when these were replaced at the Reformation.

In the Chancel, we note that the arch is very slender and the nice roof is very much lower than that of the Nave. It is of hammer-beam construction with tracery over and interesting carvings on both sides. These include a swan, tun, hedgehog and two dogs etc. It is stained a very dark colour which is a pity. The E. Window has five lights and it almost fills the whole E. end. There is nice Perpendicular tracery above the lower lights each of which measures some 15' high by 2' wide. The glass was installed in 1944 and is interesting and good. There are figures of local and other Saints in the tracery and below local coats of arms are set in clear glass. Among these can be seen those of the See of Norwich and East Anglia, the Badge of the R.A.F. and the Seal of Richard Lincoln. The Sedilia is plain but the Piscina is trefoil headed and cusped. There are two stalls with nice lions on the arms. The Altar is modern and very nice.

The Registers date back to 1538 and the Rector, Robert Neave, collected and preserved what he could in 1592. There is an Elizabethan Communion Cup with the Norwich Mark dated 1567 and a stand paten dated 1711.

Meynell, Laurence

England.[Caption Title]

Pamphlet, paper, 32 pp.
